

Registrar
Greater Scioto Valley Emmaus
P.O. Box 192
Chillicothe, Oh 45601

Dear Sponsor,

Your Pilgrim will be attending the upcoming Walk to Emmaus to be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Chillicothe. **YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT** will make their weekend more exciting and fulfilling as they experience the love of Christ.

As their sponsor, you have SEVERAL RESPONSIBILITIES, and it's time to begin! These responsibilities include the following:

- ✠ Include your pilgrim and the upcoming weekend in your prayers.
- ✠ Obtain agape letters from the pilgrim's family and close friends. (See the enclosed example)
- ✠ Make arrangements with the pilgrim to **take them out to eat (or make sure they have eaten dinner before you pick them up)** and take them to Trinity United Methodist Church on the Thursday evening of the Walk **at 6:45 p.m.** **AND** take them home after the closing. (The registration table will be located in the **fellowship hall**).
- ✠ Participate in sponsor's hour, which is a brief dedication service beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evening in the Chapel. Participate in the candlelight ceremony on Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and the closing ceremony on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. Participation in these services is limited to those who have participated in the Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo or Chrysalis. Child care will not be provided for any of these services – please make other arrangements for your children.
- ✠ Support the pilgrim's family in any way possible while they are away. Make yourself available for emergencies or spiritual support.
- ✠ In their Sunday packet, your pilgrim will receive a copy of the book entitled, "*Day Four, the Pilgrim's Continued Journey.*" This book explains the Emmaus program and the importance of reunion (share) groups. You, as their sponsor, should continue to encourage your pilgrim in their Fourth Days.

Please e-mail me if you have any questions about your responsibilities as a sponsor.
registrar@gsve.org

De Colores!

The GSVE Board.

ATTENTION SPONSORS

Pilgrims should arrive at Trinity **at 6:45 p.m.** on Thursday evening. Before this time final preparations for the weekend are going on so please, **DO NOT** arrive early.

There is **NO MEAL**, so have your pilgrim eat dinner or take them out to eat before arriving for send-off.

There is **NO MEAL** after closing on Sunday evening.

Assistance will be needed with housekeeping, kitchen, and the prayer vigil during the walk weekend. You can sign up by contacting the board member who coordinates these duties, sign up online (see www.gsve.org), or sign up when you arrive for sponsor's hour.

Please remember not to give your pilgrim special agape during the weekend. It will be given back to you at the closing to give to the pilgrim *after the weekend has ended*. All agape must go through the agape room and be given out at the appropriate times.

The **EMERGENCY** phone number for the walk weekend will be handed out to you on Thursday.

AGAPE LETTERS

Your pilgrim will receive numerous gifts of love during their Walk to Emmaus. PLEASE BE SURE TO TELL EVERYONE THAT ANY AGAPE MUST FIT IN THE SUNDAY AGAPE BAGS (approx 8"x10"). ANY LARGE GIFTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO THE PILGRIMS UNTIL AFTER THE WEEKEND. For many pilgrims, the best gift of all is the packet of Agape letters given near the end of the weekend.

As a sponsor, you can make your pilgrim's weekend more meaningful by diligently contacting their family, co-workers and close friends. Experience has shown that approximately **fifteen** letters from persons closest to the pilgrim is a desirable goal. The following suggestions may help you obtain quality Agape letters for your pilgrim:

- You may need to do a little detective work to get the names and addresses of the pilgrim's close friends. Contact these people **RIGHT AWAY**. Some people find it difficult to express themselves in writing and will need as much time as you can give them. Don't be shy about asking because most people will be glad to do it.
- Ask the letter writer to express their true feelings for the pilgrim. It may help to have the letter writer to imagine they are moving to a distant city and will never have a chance to tell the pilgrim how they have touched the writer's life.
- Tell the letter writer to seal their letter in a plain envelope and write the pilgrim's **first and last name** on the envelope. The letter writer should **not** put their own name on the envelope. These can be given to you, or brought to the church and dropped in the boxes at the entrances in the church.
- The letters can also be mailed directly to the community. They should be addressed:

[Pilgrim's first and last name]
Greater Scioto Valley Women's Walk to Emmaus
P.O. Box 192
Chillicothe, OH 45601

- Letters can also be emailed to agape@gsve.org

THE WORD "**AGAPE**" SHOULD BE WRITTEN IN THE LOWER LEFT CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE

Letters can be turned in as late as Saturday night **BEFORE** Candlelight Service.

- Make sure the letter writer knows that this will be a complete surprise to the pilgrim. Confidentiality is a must!!!!

If you have any questions about your responsibilities as a sponsor, please email registrar@gsve.org

De Colores!

The GSVE Board

SAMPLE LETTER

DATE

YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS

Dear Friends or Relatives of *(Pilgrim's name)*,

(Month, date, year), *(Pilgrim's name)* will be attending a spiritual renewal weekend called, "The Walk to Emmaus." At one point in the weekend, *(Pilgrim's name)* will receive mail from relatives and close friends. It is a very meaningful part of the experience.

Would you please write a letter for *(Pilgrim)*? After signing it, put it in a plain envelope, seal it and address it with their first and last name only. Put it in a larger envelope, and I suggest you send it no later than *(Date one week prior to walk)*.

The address is:

(Pilgrim's name)
Greater Scioto Valley Walk to Emmaus
P.O. Box 192
Chillicothe, OH 45601

THIS SHOULD COME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO *(PILGRIM)*. It is an opportunity to express your appreciation of them, and to let them know what your relationship with them has meant and still means to you. You might want to recall some humorous event or some happening that has been special to the two of you. Only *(Pilgrim)* will read this letter, so it can be very personal. If you have trouble expressing yourself in a letter, send a card with a short message that expresses how you feel.

Be sure to get the letter or card sent so it arrives **on or before (Date the walk begins)**. Thank you so much for helping make this a very special weekend in their life.

May God bless you,

YOUR NAME

REMINDERS

1. REMEMBER YOUR NAME TAG.
2. Pick up the pilgrim so to **arrive** at Trinity UMC **at 6:45 p.m.**
3. Go straight to registration, in the **fellowship hall**.
4. Be sure you or the pilgrim has remainder of fees.
5. Help them pick out their bed.
6. Make their bed for them.
7. Explain that the chair beside their bed is for their use.
8. Be sure their name card is placed on the bottom of their bed and remind them to put their name card back on their bed each morning.
9. Show them where the restrooms and showers are downstairs. The team will show them where the restrooms are upstairs.
10. Go to the Fellowship Hall and have a seat.
- 11. Remind your pilgrim no watches, cameras, cell phones or ball caps.**
12. Tell them if they need something from home that we do not have at the church, they should tell a team member and an Assistant Lay Director will get in touch with you.
13. Give them a hug before they go upstairs.
14. After everyone goes upstairs, go straight to the chapel for Sponsor's Hour.
15. If time does not permit you to go to Sponsor's Hour, get someone to go for you so someone will be available to hold the pilgrim's cross and share in communion.
16. Candlelight starts promptly at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday. You may want to come earlier to fellowship.
17. Meet in the Fellowship Hall Sunday to go to the Sanctuary as a group for closing which starts at 4:30 p.m.

THE COMMANDMENTS OF A SPONSOR

1. *Thou shalt pray, pray, pray! Pray for discernment as to whom you shalt invite, pray for your pilgrim and their family, pray for the weekend, the community, the team and other pilgrims attending the walk weekend.*
2. *Thou shalt feed your pilgrim before bringing them to Trinity for the send off.*
3. *Thou shalt bring your pilgrim to the weekend, make their bed, carry their luggage and tend to their family needs during the walk.*
4. *Thou shalt gather letters of Agape for your pilgrim; as a sponsor you are receiving information prior to the walk which will be helpful in your Agape letter quest for your pilgrim. (Thou art allowed to give special gifts following the closing ceremony after departing the church.)*
5. *Thou shalt attend sponsor's hour held in the chapel immediately following the pilgrim send-off (singing, "This Is the Day," as the pilgrims and team head for the conference room). During sponsor's hour, you will hold your pilgrim's cross, pray for them and their weekend and celebrate Holy Communion together with the other sponsors on behalf of the pilgrims and the team.*
6. *Thou shalt have as little contact as possible with your pilgrim during the weekend.*
7. *Thou shalt attend candlelight services, which are held Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at Trinity UMC.*
8. *Thou shalt attend closing on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at Trinity UMC. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.*
9. **THOU SHALT TAKE YOUR PILGRIM HOME AFTER THE WEEKEND EVENTS ARE COMPLETED.**
10. **THOU SHALT HELP YOUR PILGRIM FIND A REUNION (SHARE) GROUP OR CREATE A NEW ONE ☺**
11. *Thou shalt love and serve your pilgrim to the best of your ability and continue to encourage them in their Fourth Days*
12. *Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength that the other nine commandments may be fulfilled!*

WHAT YOUR PILGRIM SHOULD BRING FOR THE WEEKEND

Purses are not necessary. Please try to limit what personal items your pilgrim brings to only necessities.

The remainder of fees (check or cash)

Sleeping bag or sheets and blankets

Pillow

Personal toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc.)

Towels and washcloth

Hair dryer, curling iron

Any medication they may need, or think they may need

Pajamas, nightgown or sweats

Bible (if they want)

Casual clothes (prepare to dress in layers)

Flashlight

Shower shoes

Sweater, sweatshirt or light jacket

Money or check for book table (if they wish)

A notebook and pen will be provided for them to take lots of notes

If they keep a personal journal, they may bring it. Bring whatever they want to make them comfortable. (Husbands excluded!)

Ask your pilgrim to please leave their watch, cell phone, camera, ball caps and any valuables at home.

Pick them up so that you can arrive at 6:45 p.m.

If there is anything they need or forgot during the weekend, your pilgrim should not hesitate to ask their table leader.

The **EMERGENCY** phone number for the weekend will be handed out on Thursday when you arrive.