

Pioneer Country

Walk to Emmaus

Sponsor's Kit

**TO INSPIRE, CHALLENGE AND EQUIP
LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERS FOR CHRISTIAN
ACTION IN THEIR HOMES, CHURCHES, AND
PLACES OF WORK**

THIS IS AN EMMAUS SPONSOR'S KIT, NOT AN EMMAUS PILGRIM'S KIT. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE ANY OF THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR CANDIDATE. THE SPONSOR'S PORTION MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE CANDIDATE APPLICATION AND THE EMERGENCY CONTACT AND MEDICAL RELEASE FORM IN THE EMMAUS PILGRIM'S KIT WHICH MUST BE DOWNLOADED SEPARATELY. PLEASE RETURN BOTH TO THE REGISTRAR.

Candidate's Name (just in case pages get separated): _____

TO BE FILLED OUT BY SPONSOR

IF CANDIDATE IS MARRIED, SUBMIT HUSBAND AND WIFE APPLICATIONS TOGETHER

Please fill all blanks and return to Registrar along with candidates Application, Deposit and Medical Release form/ Emergency Contact page. Make a copy of the Medical Release Form/Emergency Contact page as a resource for agape letters.

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work: Phone: _____

City: _____ Cell Phone: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Where do you attend church: _____ City: _____

Where was your original walk: _____ State: _____

When: _____ Walk No: _____

Are you in a reunion group? Yes or No Do you receive the newsletter? Yes or No

How many candidates have you sponsored in the last 12 months? _____

Are you praying and sacrificing for your candidate? Yes or No

How long have you known the candidate? _____

Why do you feel that this person would be a good candidate? _____

The candidate (**is/is not**) physically able to participate in an Emmaus Weekend. The candidate (**is/is not**) under any temporary emotional strain that might indicate his/her weekend should be postponed. I know this applicant (**is/is not**) an **active** member of their local church.

Name of applicant's local church: _____

I (**have/have not**) read the **Questions & Checklist** (pages 5, and 6 & 7 of this kit).

Will you assist the candidate to get into a reunion group? **YES or NO**

If the candidate is married, have you discussed Emmaus with her/his spouse? **YES or NO**

Will you bring your candidate to the Walk on time (6:30pm Thursday)? **YES or NO**

Will you attend: Sponsor's Hour? **YES or NO** Saturday Night Candlelight? **YES or NO** Closing? **YES or NO**

Can you care for the needs of your candidate's family over the weekend? **YES or NO**

Have you explained the 4th Day meeting? **YES or NO**

Will you accompany the candidate to the 4th Day meeting Thursday following each walk, 7:00pm, at the church where walk occurred)? **YES or NO**

Are you aware of the importance of minimal contact with your candidate during the weekend, especially if the candidate is your wife/husband? **YES or NO**

Financial assistance is available, if needed. It is the PCE Board's desire that each Pilgrim, Sponsor or Home Church pay at least some of the Pilgrim's Fee. If this assistance is needed, please contact the Registrar prior to mailing the application.

*****Please be sure that pastor's signature is included on the application before mailing to the registrar.**

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Upon acceptance, you and your pilgrim will be notified in writing or email approx. 4 weeks before the Walk.

Mail applications to: Pioneer Country Emmaus ATTN: Registrar PO Box 271082 Oklahoma City, OK 73137-1082

SOME QUESTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE SPONSORS

1. **Why do you want to be a sponsor?** Do you want to build up the body of Christ by inviting people to participate in the Emmaus experience? Sponsorship is probably the most important role you will play in the Emmaus Community. Your invitation to a candidate is the first step on the Walk To Emmaus. To the candidate, you as the sponsor are the Emmaus Community and, as such, should walk with the candidate all the way to Emmaus and back.
2. **Who should you invite to participate in the Walk To Emmaus?** Emmaus is for active Christian's who, through their personal renewal, will bring new energy, commitment, and vision to the church. Potential prospects include:
 - a. church leaders, both clergy and laity,
 - b. Christians who are the quiet backbone of the church,
 - c. Christians who need a rekindling of grace and an opportunity to renew their commitment to our Lord, and,
 - d. Christians who are hungry for something more and who want to grow spiritually.
3. **Who should you NOT invite to participate in the Walk To Emmaus?** Emmaus is a wonderful experience for many people, but not for all people. As a sponsor you must be aware of and sensitive to the factors that may have a negative effect on the weekend or be divisive to the church. Examples of questionable sponsorship include:
 - a. non-Christians with no relationship with the church or our Lord,
 - b. persons undergoing an emotional crisis,
 - c. persons whose theology or practice is notably different or incompatible with the theology or practice represented by the Walk To Emmaus,
 - d. persons who continually find fault with the church and may want to create an "Emmaus Church",
 - e. persons who are continually looking for another spiritual high, and
 - f. a person whose spouse is not willing to attend the Walk to Emmaus (A spouse not attending a walk should be included in the decision for their spouse to attend).
4. How do you sponsor a candidate? **Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey**, has an excellent chapter on "*The Next Generation: Sponsorship*" which elaborates on the following ten steps on how to sponsor a candidate. The steps are:
 - a. pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship,
 - b. make an appointment with the person or couple to discuss their participation in Emmaus,
 - c. invite them to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ,
 - d. ask them to make a commitment by filling out the registration form,
 - e. continue to pray and request agape letters **but not gifts**,
 - f. support the Walk through your prayer, attendance, and service,
 - g. encourage the pilgrim in his or her 4th Day involvement,
 - h. invite and transport to gatherings
 - i. help the new pilgrim find ways to act out their new commitment and enthusiasm in their home church,
 - j. inform the pilgrim how he or she can serve the Emmaus Community and future walks, and
 - k. help the pilgrim sponsor others.

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the candidates, for the Emmaus Community, and for the local church. It is a demonstration of agape love. It is making one's self an instrument of God's prevenient grace.

SPONSOR'S CHECKLIST

- _____ Explain the logistics of the weekend.
- _____ Obtain a completed application from the candidate.
- _____ Complete the sponsor's portion of the application.
- _____ Mail the application, sponsor's portion and deposit to the registrar.
- _____ Bring the pilgrim to Send-off **on time (6:30pm Thursday)**.
- _____ Gather and bring agape letters (**not gifts**) to the weekend site.
- _____ Attend Sponsor's Hour.
- _____ Attend to the needs of the pilgrim's family during the weekend.
- _____ Serve behind the scenes at the Walk as a silent servant.
- _____ Attend Candlelight.
- _____ Attend Closing and take the pilgrim home.
- _____ Bring the pilgrim to the 4th Day meeting.
- _____ Help the pilgrim get into a reunion group.
- _____ Encourage the pilgrim to attend Gatherings.
- _____ Encourage the pilgrim to become a sponsor.

Emmaus is open to Christians of any denomination. Be intentionally inclusive of the different denominations as you extend your invitations to individuals. The love and call of Christ is for everyone!

This is a sample letter requesting agape letters for pilgrims.

Dear

The Walk to Emmaus is a weekend of spiritual renewal with many beautiful gifts and surprises. **[Pilgrim name]** will be attending The Walk to Emmaus soon, and one of **[his/her]** surprises is the mail that **[he/she]** will receive from **[his/her]** family and friends. This letter is to let you know that we need your help in this surprise.

As sponsors, we are responsible for contacting family and friends and asking them to send a note or letter to **[Pilgrim name]** so that **[he/she]** will receive it during this special weekend. Since it will be a total surprise, we sometimes have to do a little detective work in order to get names and addresses of persons from whom we need help. Perhaps you'd like to pass this letter along to someone that you know **[Pilgrim name]** would like to hear from.

This note or letter is an opportunity for you to express your appreciation of **[Pilgrim name]**. You may also want to recall some humorous event or some happening that has been special to the two of you. This is a letter of love and appreciation and WILL BE READ ONLY BY **[Pilgrim name]**.

We're counting on you to help make **[Pilgrim name]**'s weekend special by doing the following:

1. Write a letter to **[Pilgrim name]** and sign it.
2. Put it in an envelope and seal it.
3. Write '**[Pilgrim name]**' on the front of the envelope.
4. Put that envelope into a larger envelope and mail it to us prior to _____
so we can get it to **[him/her]** on time.

Our address is: **Sponsor's Name**
Sponsor's Address

This should be a complete surprise to **[Pilgrim name]**, so please don't mention it to **[him/]** until after _____. We will greatly appreciate your helping us with this surprise. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at **[Sponsor phone #]**.

Thank you and may God bless you,
[sign your name]