

Updated February 2024

Dear Sponsor,

The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community's sponsoring practices. Emmaus is designed to spiritually renew church members who, in turn, can Christianize their environments such as home, community, vocations and churches. Hopefully, your pilgrim is already on a pilgrimage, willing to grow and move forward in his or her journey of faith. The primary reason for sponsoring someone on the Walk to Emmaus is to deepen that person's relationship with Christ and to create an enthusiastic disciple to work in God's kingdom. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the Body of Christ.

Emmaus is right for many people-but not for everyone. The religious background or emotional condition of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them. Other persons may be unsuitable choices for sponsorship to Emmaus because of the negative effect they might have on an Emmaus Weekend or the divisive influence they might bring to the church. Sponsorship requires sensitivity to these factors. Some examples of questionable sponsorship are as follows:

- **Non-Christians**
- **Christians whose theology and/or practice is notably different or incompatible with the traditional theology and practice represented by the Walk to Emmaus: Christians who have specific dietary restrictions and Sabbath celebrations that the Emmaus experience cannot provide, members of groups who will feel a need to defend the uniqueness of their beliefs throughout the Walk, or persons who do not share belief in traditional doctrines of the faith basic to the major denominations of the church and to Emmaus**
- **Persons undergoing an emotional crisis (for example-family breakup, job loss, severe grief) or who are psychologically unstable**
- **Persons who decide not to make a Walk after being presented an opportunity**
- **"Church hoppers," members who always have an axe to grind against the church; persons who will use Emmaus as a tool to divide the body, to further their own theological agendas, or who will create an "Emmaus church"**
- **Persons who are always looking for another spiritual high or another experience to help them "arrive."**

Please be in prayer for your pilgrim, all the pilgrims and the team during this time before the walk. Keep praying for your pilgrim after the Walk-many go back to tough situations in their

Fourth Days. We all know the value of prayer and how vital it is to the success of the walk. Also, take advantage of the opportunity to sign up for the prayer vigil during the Walk.

Each pilgrim has a different comfort level about going on the Walk. Remember that there is nothing secret about the Walk to Emmaus. Your pilgrim might need to have some information about what to expect such as when they will be picked up and returned, sleeping arrangements, what to bring, what will happen during the day, that they will be celebrating communion daily, etc...Candlelight and the agape letters have their own special effect in showing God's love and you may want that to be a surprise.

Please plan on doing everything you can to make your pilgrim's walk a success. Be praying, gather agape letters from loved ones and friends-these are so important for your pilgrim (remember to put your pilgrims first and last name on the outside of the envelope), get them a "goody" bag for send off, make pillow and food agape to take, help with anything their family might need during the weekend and plan on attending all of the weekend activities such as send-off, sponsor's hour, candlelight and closing.

After the Walk, it is vital for you to help your pilgrim get plugged into a reunion group and the Emmaus Community. If your pilgrim wants to sponsor someone, they should go through Sponsor's training, but it is also helpful for you to help them sponsor someone, at least for the first time. Help them to pass on the gift of good sponsorship.

Your primary motivation for sponsoring a person ought to be Christ's love in you wanting that same love for the prospective pilgrim. Building the kingdom of God is serious work, and building a strong Emmaus community is part of that task. Please take your sponsorship seriously by doing your part. Thank you so much for your willingness to keep our Emmaus community strong and flourishing.

Each pilgrim needs to fill out an application and have their pastor sign it. Sponsors must fill out the form for every pilgrim and include the \$215 fee. Three scholarships are available on a first come basis; each is a \$100.

_____ Please Initial If a pilgrim is unable to go on or complete a walk, they may be rolled for a maximum of THREE times to other walks using the initial pilgrim fee. After 3 times they are dropped from walks and the PILGRIM MONEY IS FORFEITED. If they want to sign up another time, they may but they MUST pay the pilgrim fee again.

The Emmaus Board