

SPONSOR INFORMATION

A *Sponsor* is one who has made the three-day weekend (*Walk to Emmaus* or *Cursillo/Journey*), is living a Christian life, and who wants a friend to share the weekend experience.

A *Pilgrim* is an individual who has turned in an application and been accepted to make a *Walk to Emmaus*.

SELECTING CANDIDATES:

1. Talk to your candidate's pastor to see if they are ready for the Walk. A Christian background and participation in church is recommended. The teachings presented at the Walk are meant to build on basic Christian doctrine and practice.
2. The candidate should have reasonably good natural and spiritual health. The *Walk to Emmaus* is not prepared to offer emotional, mental, marital, or substance abuse therapy. Individuals having severe problems in these areas may not be able to gain much benefit from the weekend and may not be able to sit through three days of intense study and the rigid scheduling.

CANDIDATE PREPARATION:

Talk to the candidate about the events of the weekend, the general time schedule and its purpose. Tell them it is not a time for relaxing and reading, but for study and meditation. Explain your reasons for wanting them to go. Never push someone to attend. If the candidate is married, it is recommended that both spouses attend sequential weekends. If you cannot sponsor the spouse, try to find someone who will.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

No one should be denied a chance to know Jesus better because of a lack of money, but the costs of the weekend must be paid and we are self-supporting. It is hoped that each weekend will support the cost of the next one. You may wish to help your candidate with the fee or a contribution to cover the cost above the fee. Both are tax deductible. Scholarships for a part of the fee are also available. The candidates should be told that they will have an opportunity to donate to the Scholarship Fund at the end of the weekend.

AGAPE:

The sponsor is responsible for insuring that pilgrims know of your continued thoughts and prayers for them all during the weekend. Agape is evidence of that love, those prayers, and the sacrifice of their families. For more information on showing your love see page 25 of the *Walk to Emmaus Sponsorship* booklet. Booklets can be obtained on the Upperroom website bookstore (<https://bookstore.upperroom.org>) or by contacting a Billings *Walk to Emmaus* Board member. You should mention to friends and relatives not to send gifts and flowers to the pilgrims over the weekend.

DURING THE WEEKEND THE SPONSORS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Bring their candidate to the weekend location, assist in their registration, and attend the Sponsor's Hour service on Thursday night.
- Attend a special sponsors service on Saturday night.
- Attend the *Walk to Emmaus* closing on Sunday afternoon.
- Provide support to the candidate's family during his/her absence.

AFTER THE WEEKEND SPONSORS SHOULD:

- Help the candidate find a Fourth Day group.
- Follow through with the candidates for at least 6 months to help them find a permanent place in the *Walk to Emmaus* Community and encourage them to attend Gatherings and apply for the next team.
- After the weekend, an evaluation sheet will be sent to all candidates. Please encourage and be willing to assist your candidate in filling it out and returning it.

Tips on how to explain the Walk to Emmaus to someone interested in the experience:

Tips for Explaining Emmaus

Explain that the Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to develop servant-leadership skills for use in the local church and to strengthen the discipleship of church people. “The Walk” is not an evangelistic outreach to the non-believer. It is intended to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action - in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. The 72-hour walk is held from Thursday evening through late Sunday afternoon. The Pilgrims enjoy three busy days of singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshiping, and participating in small groups.

Why have segregated events for men and women? Aside from being able to have the space to revisit our own individual relationship with God and to express ourselves as individuals, having separate events for men and for women offers single and married participants freedom for expression and sharing that some may not feel appropriate in the company of the opposite sex. This arrangement also gives men an opportunity to express natural emotion—something that many are reluctant to do in mixed company.

Some important concepts to remember about Emmaus:

- It is for people who want to grow spiritually; who want to build up their church in love
- It is mainstream in theological outlook; it celebrates our unity in Christ whether we are traditionalists, liberals, conservatives, activists, or charismatics. Emmaus encourages unity without labels and camps.
- It is for building faith and discipleship, not for working through grief or psychological problems.
- Emmaus is for fostering unity in Christ, not for theological debate and arguments about denominations.
- It is a concentrated three-day course in Christianity, not a relaxing retreat, or time to catch up on office work, or time to take a nap or read a book. Go with empty hands and an open heart. Candidates will be asked to leave their world and their watch and cell phone behind for 72 hours.

Many devoted workers put forth a lot of loving efforts to make this experience meaningful. Encourage your pilgrim to submit their application early because space is limited and we don't want anyone to miss out!

*Source: The Emmaus Library, Walk to Emmaus
By Stephen D. Bryant, Upper Room Books, Nashville*

Walk to Emmaus Recipe for a renewed spirit and love of God

Pilgrim Surprise

Start with 15 mini lectures on different Christian principles
such as piety, study, action and grace
Alternate with singing, making posters, and skits
Add new friends
Chop up past hurts and sins and discard
Sprinkle with worship and communion
Bake for 72 hours surrounded by agape
Turn out a pilgrim with a renewed spirit and love of God.