



NOVA Emmaus – Sponsorship 101

Purpose of Sponsorship

The purpose of sponsorship is to bring **spiritual revitalization** to Christians who, in turn, bring new life and vision to the world of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community.

The purpose is to build purpose is to **build up the body of Christ**.

Importance of Good Sponsorship

Often communities take sponsorship for granted and assume everyone knows *how* and *why* to sponsor.

Quality sponsorship influences the pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus movement, and benefits the church. Good sponsorship is:

- **Before** - *First act of agape* before the Walk even begins
- **During** - *Undergirds the weekend* with sacrificial love through personal acts of agape such as prayer, letters, presence at Candlelight and Closing, and follow-up.
- **After** - *Foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus movement* to develop Christian leaders and help bring about renewal of the Church.

Whom Should You Sponsor?

Emmaus is for active Christians and church members whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and world for Christ's sake.

Who

- Church leaders (lay or clergy)
- Dependable church members
- Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled
- Christians hungry for "something more"
- Respected lay/clergy who will encourage others' participation
- Diverse congregations, denominations, ethnic groups

Who not

- Non-Christians
- Persons undergoing emotional crisis
- Christians whose practice or theology is *notably* different
- Persons who decline to make a Walk after offer is extended (no need to pressure of feel like a failure)
- Those constantly in search of the next "spiritual high"
- "Church hoppers"

Wise vs. Unwise Sponsorship

The following characteristics distinguish wise and unwise sponsorship:

Wise	Unwise
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purposeful and prayerful• Produces a balanced, theologically centered movement of the Holy Spirit• Becomes integrated into the life of the churches in the community• Becomes an effective instrument for conveying God's grace, the call to committed discipleship, and unity in Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haphazard and undiscerning• Produces a harvest that is more of a burden than a blessing to the church• Becomes a religious "fringe" group• Benefits only the individuals involved, having no impact upon or relationship with the churches in the community

What Does It Mean to Sponsor?

Good sponsorship involves the following commitments and responsibilities:

Before

1. **Prayer** for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship
2. Make an **appointment** with the person or couple to discuss their participation
3. Extend an **invitation** for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus. (Share your faith, explain the basic elements, its purpose, and follow-up dimensions).
4. Ask person to make a **commitment** by filling out application to attend. (For couples, speak with both persons and encourage equal commitment.)
5. Continue to **pray** for prospective pilgrim, prepare **agape letters**, and enlist **support of their pastor**.

During

6. Support the walk through **prayers** during the 72 hour vigil and **presence** at Sendoff, Sponsors Hour, Candlelight and Closing.
7. Support the **pilgrim's family** in whatever needs make their attendance easier.

After

8. Encourage their **Fourth Day involvement** through Reunion Group and Gatherings
9. Help him her reenter their church and **live out their new commitment**.
10. Inform pilgrim of **ways to serve in the Emmaus community** (teaming and sponsoring)

Who Can Sponsor?

Any person who has participated in an Emmaus (or other Fourth Day community) experience, has attended a Day of Deeper Understanding and has attended sponsorship training.

What is the Equal Commitment Rule?

"Husbands and wives are encouraged to make an equal commitment to participate" in the Walk to Emmaus. The rule helps guard against Emmaus becoming a divisive influence within a marriage and seeks to strengthen marriages. Sponsorship of married persons involves approaching both the husband and the wife together and encouraging an equal commitment to participate.