

THE LAST OF THE SERIES OF HOW TO RESPONSIBLY SPONSOR A PILGRIM

We are rapidly coming up to the time of the Walks for Men's Walk #97 and the Women's Walk #98. The Board has been encouraging each member of the community to be praying about a person who God has laid on your heart to sponsor. Remember, without the minimum number of 20 Pilgrims, the Board will be required to retire the Walk.

The series of articles in the Newsletter over the past few months has dealt with what we should be doing as a sponsor. This last article is a little more focused on the final stages of sponsorship prior to the walks beginning.

Approximately 3 Weeks before the Walk

- Let each pilgrim know you are arranging their transportation to and from the Walk. If at all possible, you should plan on driving them, or find someone who can. If you are working on one of the teams, this is very important due to the fact it will be difficult for you to get away. You should also take them out to eat prior to arriving at camp for the sendoff. This is one of the first acts of Agape the Pilgrim will visibly receive as part of their Walk experience.

Approximately 2 Weeks before the Walk

- Begin arranging detailed plans for transportation to Camp Lakeview. What time, where, and by who, etc. will the pilgrim be picked up. Be sure to allow time to stop and eat dinner on the way, and still arrive at the Camp site between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. so your Pilgrim will have plenty of time to check in and get settled in their room before fellowship time down at the dining hall.
- Your Agape letter and letters you have received from the Pilgrims family or friends can be delivered to the dining hall during the sponsor's hour. There will be totes there for this purpose. Be sure to follow-up on the agape letters you have not yet received, and be sure **YOU** write one.
- Make certain that the Pilgrim and their family understand the Pilgrim may not be returning home until around 7 p.m. on Sunday night. Of course this will depend on the travel time it takes to get the Pilgrim home from the Walk experience.

The Week of the Walk

- Make sure the Pilgrim's family will be "taken care of" during the Walk. (i.e. invite them over for dinner on Friday evening, call to check on them and see if they have any needs you can assist them with, etc.). If you don't contact them, make sure someone else who know them does. Be sure to give the family a contact number for Camp Lakeview – 812-342-4815. Assure them that if the need arises, the pilgrim can be contacted. You as the sponsor should handle all emergency communications with the Walk Team – this might be the Board Representative who will be most available to handle these types of situations. This is a very important act of AGAPE.
- Important: if the Pilgrim's spouse has not attended a Walk, be sensitive to their feelings and needs. Make sure they have all of the information they need in order to feel at peace while your Pilgrim is on the Walk.

- Let the Pilgrim know they should try and get some extra rest the day before the Walk. Remind them this will be a wonderful weekend of renewal, but it is also a full weekend, as the days start early and end late, so it is best to start out rested.
- Remind the Pilgrim what they will need to take with them. Bedding, pillow, towel, soap toothpaste, toothbrush, toiletries and medications are among the most frequently forgotten items. There will be some available but remind them to take their own so they will not be in a “funk” over forgetting theirs. They need to wear casual, comfortable clothes and shoes, and a sweater or rain jacket may come in handy. Also, let your Pilgrim know they will be sitting for long periods; they may want to bring a cushion for their chair if they have problems sitting for long periods of time.

Thursday Departure

- Attend Sponsor’s Hour at the chapel (dining hall). This is very important as this is where you will have the opportunity to pray over your pilgrim’s lanyard and cross.

During the Walk

- Pray for the Pilgrims and the Team during your prayer vigil time, and throughout the weekend.
- **Important:** Contact their family to see how they are doing, and ask if they have any needs you can assist with.
- Attend both Candlelight and Closing

After the Walk

- Help your Pilgrim pack any final items in their room, and carry their belongings to the car.
- While driving the Pilgrim home, tell them about follow-up opportunities and answer their many questions, but most importantly, let them share their Walk experience with you.
- One of the important responsibilities you have in supporting your Pilgrim after the Walk is to insure that he/she comes to the Fourth Day celebration following the Walks. This is normally the third weekend in the month following the completion of the Walks.
- Call them to go with you to a Gathering following the Fourth Day event. Share with them the importance of staying in contact with the Community Members and how important this is in continuing their Walk experience.
- If and when they are ready to sponsor a Pilgrim, be the resource to help them become a responsible sponsor.

De Colores,

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 Board Representative
 Sponsorship and Reunion Groups