



# Great Plains Emmaus – Walk to Emmaus Sponsor Check List



## Why should we sponsor?

- The aim of a sponsor should not be “to get all my friends to go”, “to fill up the weekend”, “to fix peoples problems”, or “to reproduce one’s own religious experience in others”.
- The aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians, who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in their congregation, home, workplace, and community.
- The aim of a sponsorship is to build up the Body of Christ.

## Whom should we sponsor?

- Church Leaders (both pastors and laypersons)** – They will bring new visions, commitment, and understanding back to their congregations; and who need the renewal and grace through Emmaus channels.
- Dependable church members** – They are the quiet backbone of the church.
- Less active church members** – Those needing their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitment renewed.
- Hungry Christians** – Those who are hungry for “something more” and want to grow spiritually.
- Members and leaders who represent a cross section of the church** – They will help the Emmaus remain sound theologically, centered on essentials of our common faith, and open to different perspectives.
- Respected laypersons and clergypersons** – Their participation, support, and leadership will encourage others to take the Walk and will build a sound, balanced leadership base for the movement in the community.

## Potential Pilgrims (Prayer, Contact, and Commitment)

- Ask God whom He wants you to sponsor.** This person should become the primary prayer spot on your prayer list.
- Ask God to begin speaking to them now.** Ask that He will draw them unto Himself so they are willing to go on a Walk and to go with a receptive heart.
- Pray for openness.** For the person’s openness to God’s call to discipleship, not how to get them to go on a walk.
- Make an appointment.** Meet with the person or couple to discuss their participation in Emmaus.
- Extend an invitation.** Invite them to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just a weekend retreat. Have the attitude that you are giving them a wonderful gift rather than “they need to go”.
- Ask them to make a commitment.** Filling out the registration form is a great sign of commitment. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage an equal commitment by both spouses.
- Ask God to prepare their hearts.** They will receive all He is going to tell them in those 3 days.
- Pray that they are on the Walk God intends for them.** God will use their Walk to fan the sparks of faith in their lives into a roaring inferno. If they aren’t able to attend the Walk you hoped, be understanding to God’s will.
- Ask God to insure they receive the roommate(s) they need.** Sometimes God places roommates together who are alike, while other times He places roommates together to help each other. Your pilgrim’s roommate will be very important.
- Ask God to place them with the table family they should be.** This is the major place God does His work on the pilgrims walk.
- Pray for the table’s leader and the assistant table leader.** Pray that they listen to God’s will and respond to your pilgrim’s needs.
- Ask God to protect not only the pilgrim but their family as well.** When God begins to move, Satan begins to work. Satan will do anything he can to hinder your pilgrim from walking intimately with Jesus.
- Pray for the team of your pilgrim’s Walk.** Pray for those people who teach, love, disciple, and equip your pilgrim. Pray for wisdom, knowledge, discernment, encouragement, mercy, compassion, unity, faith, self-control, and love. Pray that Jesus will be the Light shining in their lives.

## Sponsoring a Pilgrim Before the Walk.

- Continue to pray for your pilgrim,** that their hearts would be open to His call.
- Prepare your pilgrim:**
  - Tell your pilgrim what type of housing they will be staying in** – The Great Plains Emmaus Group uses Canyon Camp which is a Lodge with hotel type rooms 2-3 to a room.
  - Tell your pilgrim what type of accommodations to expect** – Such as: Conference Room, Chapel, and food (in case they have need of a special diet).
  - Tell your pilgrim to expect to be at the Walk site from 7 p.m. on Thursday to 7 p.m. on Sunday.**
  - Tell your pilgrim what type of clothes to bring** – Casual, comfortable clothing, perhaps a light jacket or coat depending on the season the Walk takes place.
  - Tell your pilgrim there will be no contact with family or business.** (Except in case of emergency) Tell their family member(s) that they should contact YOU in urgent situations. You should make sure that you have the emergency contact numbers at the Walk. If your pilgrim has an emergency need and must leave their Walk, you should be prepared to pick them up and return them to their home.
  - Tell your pilgrim not to bring the world with them.** Tell them that they will not need watches, alarm clocks, TVs, radios, mp3 players, cell phones, cameras, recorders or computers. These items should not be taken to the walk.
  - Tell your pilgrim what your walk meant to you.** Tell them how the Walk has affected you, your family, your job, your church, and your community. Explain what it has done for your personal relationship with Jesus Christ, how it helped you adjust your life’s priorities. Help them see in advance that the weekend is unique, that God helps each person find exactly what God wants that person to experience.