



mid-ohio valley WALK TO EMMAUS

providing spiritual retreat for south-eastern Ohio and north-central West Virginia since 1991

Continued support of your pilgrim through their Fourth Days is critical to fulfilling the purpose of Emmaus!

TO BE COMPLETED (PLEASE PRINT) AND RETURNED WITH THE PILGRIM'S APPLICATION:

Sponsor's name: _____ Pilgrim's name: _____

Sponsor's address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Sponsor's e-mail: _____ Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Once this application & your pilgrim's application is received, we will need to send some follow-up information. How would you prefer to receive it? (Please circle one)

E-mail Regular Mail

We may also contact you by phone. Please circle which you prefer:

Home Phone Cell Phone

When is the best time to call you? _____

Where did you attend your Walk to Emmaus? Community name: _____ Walk #: _____

Are you a first-time sponsor? Y N Have you assisted with other walks? Y N

If yes, please explain: _____

Are you in a reunion/share group? Y N If yes, where do you meet, and how often? _____

Why do you think this pilgrim is a good candidate? _____

How long have you known this pilgrim? _____

If this pilgrim is married, have you spoken with his/her spouse about attending a Walk to Emmaus? Y N

If no, please explain: _____

SPONSOR'S AGREEMENT

As a sponsor, I will do my best to fulfill the following responsibilities and will prayerfully uphold my pilgrim prior to, during, and following his/her Walk to Emmaus:

- * If the pilgrim is married, talk to his/her spouse to confirm his/her support of the pilgrim attending
- * Bring my pilgrim to camp on Thursday evening for send-off, carry his/her luggage and make his/her bed
- * Attend Sponsor's Hour following send-off (or send a proxy or written prayer for my pilgrim)
- * Collect and bring to the camp on Thursday evening 12 agape letters for my pilgrim.
- * Care for the needs of my pilgrim's family over the weekend
- * Attend Candlelight Saturday evening and Closing Sunday afternoon, transporting my pilgrim home afterwards
- * Assist my pilgrim in getting into an Emmaus Fourth Day Reunion/Share Group (or starting one)
- * Assist my pilgrim in attending the Gatherings.

Sponsor's signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM, PILGRIM'S APPLICATION, & PILGRIM MEDICAL FORM TO: Mid Ohio Valley Emmaus
c/o Christ United Methodist Church
301 Wooster St.
Marietta, OH 45750

10 Steps to Sponsorship

The decision to sponsor someone is the greatest and most important servant role in the Emmaus community. It is also the key to achieving our mission to develop Christian leaders. Your sponsorship is the first act of agape towards your pilgrim and undergirds the entire weekend of sacrifice and servant hood towards your pilgrim. These 10 steps are guidelines to help you with your first act of agape...sponsorship. We want you to have all the tools available to help make The Walk to Emmaus a successful experience for your pilgrim. Fourth Days are what this movement is all about! Remember, the purpose of Emmaus is to help develop Christian leaders and to build up their local church. This weekend is just the beginning!

1. Pray

Ask Christ to lead you (through prayer) to a person who may be ready to attend a Walk. Remember that The Walk to Emmaus is for Christians who are already involved with a church. The Walk is not a problem solver.

2. Make an appointment

If your pilgrim is married, speak to both husband and wife. We have found that if one partner is not supportive of the other, it puts a strain on the relationship or hinders the pilgrim's Fourth Days. Be willing to sponsor both husband and wife. Discuss the elements of the Walk. Don't hesitate to tell them about the weekend. There are no secrets about what happens during the weekend. Explain about Fourth Day activities after they return from their weekend. Make sure your pilgrim understands that:

- There are women clergy involved in leadership roles. Some may not be comfortable with women clergy.
- Open communion is celebrated daily.
- They will experience the "gift" of quiet time Thursday night.
- You will deliver them to the camp Thursday evening and pick them up Sunday afternoon. Make sure they understand you will not be staying with them or contacting them during the weekend.
- They will have no contact with the outside world during the 72 hours they are at camp. No cell phones, no watches. This is also a gift!
- The weekend is "low maintenance." They have a limited time to shower and be ready to go each morning.
- The weekend is very structured and includes 15 talks. They need to be willing to follow a schedule. But, they will not know what will be happening next, so they can't "anticipate!"

3. Extend an invitation

4. Seek their commitment to attend a Walk

5. Continue to pray, prepare agape, and enlist pastoral support

Please see the next page for important information concerning agape letters.

6. Support the Walk by working "behind the scenes" and signing up for the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil.

But, it is important that you are not visible to your pilgrim during the weekend except at Candlelight.

7. Help your pilgrim with their Fourth Days

This is very important. Invite them to their first Gathering after their walk, and do so for a couple of months afterwards. If you haven't attended a Gathering, this is an excellent opportunity for you to become reconnected with the Mid-Ohio Valley Emmaus Community. Help them become involved in a Reunion/Share Group. If you can't find one, start one. If you are not in one yourself, do it together. Remember, the weekend is just the beginning!

8. Help them re-enter their church.

9. Help your pilgrim — new community member — serve the Emmaus Community.

10. Help them sponsor someone else!

A Note about Agape Letters

As a sponsor, it is your responsibility to collect **12** letters written to the pilgrim by members of their family, friends, and church. These letters are provided in a packet to the pilgrims near the end of the Walk, and are an important part of the Emmaus experience. You must collect at least 12 letters. You may collect more than that; however, ONLY 12 letters will be placed in the packet given to the pilgrim in the conference room.

Limiting the number of letters delivered on the Walk for each pilgrim has several advantages. The main advantage is that the pilgrim can usually read all 12 letters within the time allotted. Persons trying to read more than 12 may be frustrated by their inability to read all. This frustration will detract from the special experience of having read the letters. A second advantage is to ensure that a disparity between the quantities of letters each pilgrim receives does not distract from the quality of the message that the letters convey.

Please choose the 12 letters carefully. The letters the pilgrims receive in their packets should include those written by the people closest to them (spouse and children, for example), or have some other significance. **The 12 letters are to be turned in to the agape committee when you bring your pilgrim to the camp Thursday evening.** You may ask any Emmaus volunteer to show you where to drop them off, or you may turn them in during sponsor's hour. **Please make sure your pilgrim's first and last name is on the front of all envelopes, with the word "pilgrim" written under their name.** We also ask that you write the letter writer's relationship to the pilgrim (parent, spouse, child, friend, etc.) on the back of the envelope.

Any letters in excess of the 12 provided in the packets are to be kept by the sponsor and given to the pilgrim at a time away from the camp (for example, on the ride home after the weekend). Personal agape, such as gift items or bouquets of flowers that are given to one pilgrim but not to all, are not permitted. Such gifts will be returned to the sponsor for delivery after and away from the weekend.

Recap of Sponsor's Agreement

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