



REQUIREMENTS OF SPONSORSHIP

Disa Emmaus Community

Only someone who has been on a Walk to Emmaus can fulfill this role. Sponsorship does not require paying for participants, but rather ensuring that they derive spiritual benefit from the Walk.

It involves:

1. Prayerful selection of applicants in consultation with the sponsor's accountability/reunion group and the applicant's minister or pastor.
2. Submission of the Pilgrim's application form with ALL the necessary information filled in and signed, completed sponsorship form and deposit, to the registrar registrar@disaemmaus.org.za for consideration by the Disa Emmaus Board.
3. Support for the prospective pilgrim before, during and after the walk. This includes the following:
 - ❖ Praying for the applicant.
 - ❖ Explaining the Walk to the candidate and his/her spouse before submitting this application form.
 - ❖ Discuss the Walk with his/her family/friends for appropriate support and encouragement and care for them over the period of the Walk.
 - ❖ Arrange for transport to and from the Walk venue.
 - ❖ Participate in activities that make the Walk a special blessing.
 - ❖ Help the applicant attend follow-up activities after the Walk.
 - ❖ Attend the Post Walk Gathering with your Pilgrim.

Emmaus relies on sponsorship to bring other Christians from all walks of life, denominations and races, to share this experience. The personal character of sponsorship underlines the personal care and commitment of God to each Pilgrim. With the Emmaus experience being passed on from person to person, this reflects the nature of God and the manner in which God reaches out to people through people.

Sponsorship is integral to some of the unique features and strengths of Emmaus - a discerning approach to recruitment, personal agape and prayer for the pilgrim, plus the sponsors' presence at ALL the Community weekend events, supporting the pilgrim to become involved in a reunion/accountability group and to mentor the Pilgrim as they become future sponsors.

Because of sponsorship, it is seldom that Emmaus Walks are cancelled due to lack of participants, but without responsible sponsorship this could be a reality. As a pilgrim we all want to share the gift of those 3 days with others. Wise sponsorship assists Emmaus in making the three days an act of relevant and appropriate sacrificial love from the beginning to the end.

Appropriate sponsorship cannot be over emphasized. The quality of sponsorship influences the pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus movement and the church being affected by the Emmaus movement. Good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus movement that is fulfilling its true purpose - the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry.

Remember a Walk can only accommodate the maximum of 7 pilgrims from any one church, the reasons being:

- ❖ Too many leaders away from the same church will place a strain on that congregation considering that there may also be people serving on team from the same church.
- ❖ More than 7 pilgrim's presents difficulties in placing them on tables - a pilgrim should not be on the same table as another member of their church. Each pilgrim must have his or her own experience.

Why do we sponsor?

One should sponsor with the following aims - to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians, who in turn will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace and community and to build up the body of Christ. Sponsorship is not "to get all my friends to go", to fill up the weekend, or to fix people's problems.

Things to avoid in sponsorship

Do not sponsor a pilgrim because you believe they will have fun!

Do not sponsor a pilgrim who is going through an emotional crisis!

Do not sponsor new or non-Christians!

Do not sponsor if you are on team for the same weekend, because:

- ❖ you cannot fulfill your sponsorship duties fully since a pilgrim's family cannot contact you if necessary
- ❖ you cannot effectively pray for your pilgrim
- ❖ you cannot transport your pilgrim to and from the venue.
- ❖ you cannot attend activities that make the weekend a special blessing.

Do not sponsor just because you had a wonderful time and therefore you believe everyone will - this not true.

Do not tell people they HAVE to attend Emmaus; Emmaus is a ministry, it is not THE ministry.