

So you want to be a Sponsor!
Romans 14:17-18 & Matthew 7:21-24

The Sponsor's purpose is to help develop and encourage spiritual growth for a weekender and to support the weekender in the ongoing dedication of their life in grace. The sponsor is an example of a life in Christ.

Before you become a sponsor, you...

- Must have a home church and attend a renewal group
- Should be prepared to stay in close contact with the new 4th Dayer for up to one year. Be sensitive to the length of time a 4th Dayer wants your support.
- Will want to sponsor on a weekend you are not working.
- Ask the Lord for guidance and help to enable you to carry out your responsibilities as a sponsor.

You have a friend who would like to attend...

- Pick up application forms from the weekender's home church liaison, fill them out properly, and submit them following the procedures given by the liaison.
- To avoid disappointment, never promise the weekender acceptance for a specific date. There is usually a waiting list.
- Take time to get better acquainted with the prospective weekender (especially if you are not well acquainted with that person).
- If you know there will be responsibilities or support you are not able to fulfill for your weekender, find a Co-Sponsor. Be sure the weekender gets acquainted with him/her.

What to tell your prospective weekender...

- Tell the weekender what to expect. Explain everything except the Agape Dinner, Sunday morning and Sunday evening Serenades, and Palanca.
- Explain complete attendance is expected for the weekend (no leaving and returning).
- Explain start and end times of the weekend.
- Explain renewal groups and other gatherings.

The wait...Remember, it's God's time!

- It may be several months before your weekender is accepted. Use this time to build a relationship. Keep in touch regularly.
- Help meet needs that may arise for their home, job, childcare.

Your prospective weekender has been accepted...

- You and your weekender will each receive a letter of acceptance from the weekend rector approximately 3-5 weeks before the weekend.
- Inform your liaison that the weekender has been accepted.
- Contact friends and family of the weekender who have been through a Via de Cristo/Cursillo experience. Inform them of the weekend and palanca.
- Arrange for church and personal palanca from your Ultreya group.
- Make transportation arrangements with your weekender. Make every effort to work out any pressing concerns your weekender may have before they go on the weekend to free them from outside concerns.
- Check with your weekender a day or two before to answer any last minute questions and to give encouragement.

Remember Palanca

Palanca means sacrificial giving or prayer. Helping set up or clean up for the weekend is appreciated by all. Other material palanca may be delivered to the 4th Day room any time during the weekend. Group palanca for the whole Rollo room is delivered during the weekend. Personal palanca for an individual, except for one piece of bed palanca, is held and given to the weekenders after the Clausura.

The Weekend Arrives...

- Write a sponsor letter to your weekender to be given as bed palanca (only if the weekend rector has requested it in the sponsor letter to you). Request for bed palanca is at the discretion of the weekend rector.
- Provide a personal cup or mug for your weekender to take to the weekend. It is a nice memento of the weekend.
- Bring your weekender to the weekend and help them get settled and comfortable. Stay with them in the hospitality room and introduce them to people you know.
- Stop in the 4th Day room and sign your weekender's Bible. Attend the sponsor service if there is one.

The Weekend Progresses...

- For the Men's Weekend: Contact the family on Friday and Saturday to help with any emergencies that may arise.
- For the Women's Weekend: Be sure a wife knows how to contact you if she must get in touch with her husband.
- Arrange for baby sitting for the wife's Clausura so the husband can attend. Children can be a distraction at Clausuras.
- The sponsor or co-sponsor must attend the Sunday morning and Sunday evening serenades and Clausura.
- Be sensitive to the weekender's needs at the Clausura and reception. Some are in a hurry to go home, some just want to talk.

Following Up and Following Through...

- Help the new 4th Dayer become an integral part and member of their church and the 4th Day community.
- Contact your weekender during the week following the Via de Cristo, in person if possible. They are still sorting out thoughts about the weekend.
- Encourage the new 4th Dayer to be a part of a renewal group. The sponsor could shepherd a new group to get it started.
- Take the new 4th Dayer to Ultreyas and introduce her/him into the broader Via de Cristo community. Be sensitive to the new 4th Dayer's desire for support.

**Pray for God's guidance and the Spirit's power
in your sponsoring experience!**