

Sponsor Responsibilities

Each sponsor should be leading an active Christian life and be a living witness of their love for Christ. It is only through personal witness that we will make the Cursillo Method attractive to prospective candidates.

The sponsor:

- Should review and be familiar with the guidelines that apply to applicants for a Cursillo weekend.
- Should know the applicant well enough, and pray for direction from the Holy Spirit, to be able to recommend the Cursillo experience to them, using the guidelines outlined.
- Should discuss completely the Cursillo process with the candidate and the fact that Cursillo means 'A short course in Christian Living'. Make certain that the candidate has a thorough understanding of what the general format of the weekend will be PRIOR to the candidate signing the application. In doing this, TRY NOT to give away the SURPRISES of the weekend!
 - Each day begins with morning prayers and ends with night prayers.
 - Worship is celebrated daily.
 - Meals will be provided.
 - Daily there will be presentations by Pastors and lay-people, with discussions and sharing.
 - There is no cost. It has been paid by those going before you.
- Can decide if you want to suggest to the candidate who works, that they may want to take Monday off, if possible.
- When your candidate is your parent/child/close relative and you are not serving in the Conference Room, you are highly encouraged to work Palanca. If you are serving on the Conference Room Team, there needs to be a discussion between you, the Weekend Rectors and the Weekend Pastor to determine if you should step down from the Conference Room Team or continue to serve as planned. The goal is to determine what would be best for your candidate in order to have the most effective Cursillo experience.
- Should do before the weekend is here:
 - Begin praying for the weekend and your candidate.
 - May need to help arrange to take care of any childcare or other concerns that may present themselves prior or during the weekend.
 - Let candidate know how they are getting to and from the weekend.
 - Arrange personal Palanca for the candidate(s). Invite other 4th day who know the candidate(s) to write Palanca.
- Should do when the weekend is here:
 - Make sure the candidate takes everything he/she will need for the weekend.
 - Provide transportation to and from the location of the weekend.

- Plan to attend to any of the candidate's family or home needs during the weekend.
- If you already haven't done so, bring payment for your candidate's weekend.
- Should do during the weekend:
 - Thursday night, if possible, have a quiet dinner with your candidate (s). Take them to the facility on time and help get them settled.
 - Bring prepared Palanca.
 - Your role as a sponsor is to PRAY.
 - Attend/assist to any needs of the candidate's family.
 - Be there at closing. In the remote event you can't attend the closing, arrange for someone else to attend and provide a ride home from the Cursillo weekend.
- Should do after the weekend:
 - Make contact (in person or by phone) with your candidate sometime on Monday or Tuesday after the weekend. Be there to listen, to love, to answer questions and to SUPPORT them! Recognize the need to talk will continue for the next several weeks. Make sure your candidate knows you are available.
 - Recognize that your candidate may want to process his/her weekend in different ways. Be available to listen when your candidate asks to talk.
 - Send Palanca of encouragement to your candidate after the weekend.
 - Go over the concept of Fourth Day involvement.
 - Help your candidate to get established in a Fourth day group. They may need some assistance in 'plugging' into both a church community and/or the Cursillo community. The post weekend sharing and the commitment of a Fourth day group will help your candidate integrate the Cursillo concepts into daily life.
 - Be the bridge for your candidate to the larger Cursillo community.
 - Arrange to take your candidate to the first Ultreya following the weekend.
 - Continue to maintain contact with your candidate until you feel that your candidate is regularly participating with Fourth Day activities.

Since these responsibilities require considerable effort, consider the level of responsibility before sponsoring multiple candidates.

If you wish to sponsor a candidate who doesn't live in your own geographical area, it is recommended that you only do so with a co-sponsor that lives near your candidate and who has also read and accepted both the sponsor's guidelines and responsibilities. Co-sponsors need to decide how they will split the responsibilities. If you don't know anyone from the candidate's community, contact the candidate's home church to find someone who has attended Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus (Methodist), Vio De Christo (Lutheran), Pilgrimage (Presbyterian), etc. They may be able to find a Fourth Day community in their location.

Your role as a sponsor is a special one. You are a member of the team. Once you have invited someone to experience Cursillo, the tripod of Cursillo begins, the sponsor, the Conference Room and Palanca Teams. You will pray, commit to actions and help your candidate to fully experience all that Cursillo has to offer. Consider writing down your thoughts about the action items you want to take, to encourage and support your candidate in this very special faith journey.

De Colores!

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