

## **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 gone through a Via de Cristo or affiliated-type weekend.
- Must have a home church, 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 or website, fill them out properly, and submit them following the instructions on the application. If there is no Liaison, simply go to the [www.vdcnd.com](http://www.vdcnd.com) website to obtain the application and submit online.
- To avoid disappointment, never promise the weekender acceptance for a specific date.
- 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. There are no secrets. You don't need to go into great detail, but transparency is very important.
- 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 its 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 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 (**letters and cards highly preferred**).

- Arrange for church and personal palanca from your Ultreya group—**this is in the form of written letters/cards to the weekender. Arrange for at least three of these (from other friends or family—need not be 4<sup>th</sup> Day community only).**
- 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. **Cards and letters** as a type of palanca are **highly encouraged**.

### **The Weekend Arrives...**

- Write a sponsor letter to your weekender to be given as bed palanca.
- 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.
- Attend the sponsor service.

### **The Weekend Progresses...**

- Let the family know how they may contact you or the weekend Rector should the need arise.
- The sponsor or co-sponsor must attend the Sunday afternoon Serenade and Clausura.
- Be sensitive to the weekender's needs at the Clausura and reception. Some are in a hurry to go home and some just want to stay and 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!**