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## ***GUIDELINES FOR A PILGRIMAGE SPONSOR***

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Sponsoring a Pilgrim to attend a retreat weekend has many responsibilities. Talk to the Lord before you talk to your applicant. You should choose Pilgrims very carefully. The success of your Pilgrim's Fourth Day depends on you.

- Pray daily for your Pilgrims, also during and following the weekend.
- Be sure the application is complete, including the deposit and your completed sponsor information form, and mail to the registrar.
- Be available to your Pilgrims before the weekend to answer any questions they might have, to provide encouragement or calm any fears regarding the weekend. If there are any changes, let the registrar know immediately.
- Arrange for personal palanca for your Pilgrims and prepare a personal placemat.
- To the extent you can, contribute financially to your Pilgrim's weekend, if needed.
- Write palanca for your Pilgrim, the other Pilgrims, and Team members.
- Provide transportation for your Pilgrim, or make arrangements for transportation, to and from the Christian Church Conference Center, if possible. Pilgrims should arrive by 5 p.m. Thursday.
- Attend the Serenade and the Closing, if at all possible.
- Meet with your new Pilgrims after the weekend to give them an opportunity to share their feelings about the weekend. Send a note of personal appreciation and encouragement.
- Keep your Pilgrims informed about upcoming Pilgrimage events and encourage their participation in Fourth Day Reunion Groups and Ultreyas.
- If your Pilgrims do not have e-mail access, provide them copies of e-mail updates and newsletters.
- Continually do your best to represent the love of Christ to your Pilgrims.
- Provide a Reunion Group the new Pilgrims can join, or join them in forming one. This last responsibility is very important and is what distinguishes Pilgrimage from other religious retreat weekends. Remember, Pilgrimage has a fourth day. It is ongoing.
- If you are not serving on Team, sign up to pray on the Prayer Banner at [www.PrayerBanner.org](http://www.PrayerBanner.org).

**As sponsor mail the completed participant's application, deposit, and your completed sponsor form to the registrar.** An acceptance letter will be sent out when all three have been received. The registrar will notify both the applicant and the sponsor when the applicant is accepted for the weekend. In sponsoring a Pilgrim, you are supporting their decision to attend the retreat. You have joined with them to enhance their Spiritual experience. All that you do is important to the quality of their faith walk.

## *How to Talk about Pilgrimage to Potential Pilgrims*

Inviting someone to attend a life-changing event should be treated seriously and with enthusiasm. It should be a personal sharing knowing that God has asked you to offer this amazing experience to His chosen person. So when you offer to sponsor someone to attend Pilgrimage, treat it like a big deal-because it is!



The biggest job for all of us in the 4th Day is recruiting Pilgrims. If you believe God may be calling someone to attend Pilgrimage, saying “I want to sponsor you to attend...” will be far more effective than “You ought to go...”

Start by talking to those you believe to be potential leaders in the church. Encourage them, pray for them, treat them to breakfast or lunch. Tell them how and why a Pilgrimage weekend can benefit their ministry.

Share your thoughts and feelings about Pilgrimage. And yes, you may talk about what will happen on the weekend. Of course, you won't want to give the surprises away, but reassure them about the format. Tell them there are 15 leadership talks, we sing a little, discussion in small breakout groups, we sing a little more, have worship led by clergy, we sing more, have fun and games, and then more singing! Some of the most lasting things people take home with them are joy in the songs, the feelings of fellowship, and memories of God's love.

Suggest your pilgrims invite friends or family to attend the closing service at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 30. This is often the highlight of the weekend for many as they give their testimonies of how God has moved in their lives. An awesome experience.

Applications are on the Register/Attend page, along with the sponsor form. The application deadline for pilgrims is March 24, 2017.

It's time for renewal in the hearts of God's people. Where better than in your very own congregation?