

SOUTHERN ARIZONA VIA DE CRISTO

SPONSOR GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are important and are designed to make being a sponsor easy and enjoyable.

CRITERIA FOR SPONSORS:

1. Be actively grouping
2. Attend a Via de Cristo or similar 3-day weekend
3. Attend leadership school

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPANTS:

1. Baptized (mandatory requirement)
2. Member of a Christian church
3. Currently active in a church
4. Minimum age – 18 years
5. Emotionally stable
6. Married couples must apply at the same time. The husband is to precede his wife on the weekend except in the case of a co-ed weekend if they are able to attend together. (Criteria 2-6 may be appealed to the Secretariat)

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

1. It is recommended that sponsors discuss possible participants with the parish rep and the pastor before inviting the participant.
2. Parish Rep will supply the sponsor with a registration form or guide them to the VdC website.. Each participant (whether attending as a couple) should complete a registration form.
3. Sponsor will assist the participant in filling out the registration form.
4. Sponsor returns the completed signed registration form and the medical forms to the Parish Rep for the Pastor's signature and approval of the Secretariat in the case that an exception is needed.
5. Sponsor will notify the Parish Rep of any changes in the participant's status.
6. In the case of a needed exception, the Secretariat will notify the Parish Rep and participant of the Secretariat's decision for acceptance and will invite the participant when possible.
7. When you agree to sponsor a participant, begin to include them in your daily prayers.

PERSONAL CONSIDERATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPONSOR

Your actions as a sponsor will directly affect the experience that your participant will have during the Via de Cristo weekend. It is important that you know and accept the following responsibilities of a sponsor.

- Immediately notify your participant if an orientation meeting has been scheduled. Attend with them and provide transportation, if possible. If the participants are a married couple, encourage both to attend. If they are unable to attend, be sure that they get a "What is Via de Cristo?" brochure.
- Determine from your participant if he or she has any need for a "special diet" or "bed request". This information should be given to your Parish Rep who will pass it along to the pre-weekend Secretariat member. (This information should have been included in his or her registration form.)
- The sponsor provides transportation to and from the Via de Cristo weekend. If you cannot provide this transportation (i.e. you are serving on team), arrange to have your spouse or another community member from your church provide transportation. The participant is not to drive his/her own car.
- Dinner is not served at the Via de Cristo weekend on Thursday or Sunday evening. Some sponsors like to take their participants out for dinner on the way to the Via de Cristo weekend and/or on the way home from the Via de Cristo weekend. This is not necessary and is left up to the individual sponsor and their participant.
- Stopping for dinner or dessert on the way home from the weekend gives the new pilgrim an opportunity to discuss what they experienced on the weekend. In the case of a married couple who did not attend a co-ed weekend, this is best done after the women's weekend.
- Each sponsor shall provide a banner for his/her participant which is 24" x 36" as well as a devotion book.
- Sponsors should prepare palanca for the participant and should contact family members of the participant to obtain letters or notes of palanca to be given to the participant on the weekend.
- Sponsors should group with their participant for 3 months until the participant can possibly start grouping with others. Sponsors need to help their participant find a grouping group.