

So you want to be a Sponsor!

Romans 14:17-18 & Matthew 7:21-24

The Sponsor's purpose is to help develop & encourage spiritual growth for a weekend Guest, and to support the Guest in the ongoing dedication of their life in grace.

The sponsor is an example of a life in Christ.

The South Dakota Lutheran Via de Cristo Secretariat has identified the need for intentional commitment of significant time and prayer as cornerstones of successful sponsorship, We want to ensure all sponsors take time to become educated on the value of your commitment and follow through to the strengthening of your Guest as they become a member of our extended 4th Day Community! Sponsorship is a wonderful gift you can share with others, as well as a serious responsibility to help ensure the best possible spiritual growth experience for your Guest and yourself too!

Before you become a sponsor, you...

- Must have a home church and it is suggested you be in an active 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 and may need your support
- 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...

- Print out an registration form from the SD Via de Cristo website, fill them out properly, and submit them following the procedures given on the form
- To avoid disappointment, never promise the Guest acceptance for a specific date. There may be a waiting list
- Take time to get better acquainted with the prospective Guest (especially if you are not well acquainted with that person)
- If there will be responsibilities or support you are not able to fulfill, find a Co-Sponsor to share this aspect

What to tell your prospective Guest...

- Tell the Guest what to expect - explain everything except the Agape Dinner, serenades and palanca
- Explain complete attendance is expected for the weekend (no leaving and returning)
- Explain start and end times of the weekend
- Explain donations are collected to cover facility and related fees. If you or your church community will help underwrite these costs, ensure the guest knows this and they can choose to pay-it-forward as desired. If financial hardship exists, ensure they know we only ask them to pay what they are able, and love gifts ensure all who are called by the Holy Spirit may attend
- Explain renewal groups and other gatherings can take place following their weekend

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

- It may be several months before your Guest is accepted - use this time to build a relationship and keep in touch regularly
- Help meet needs that may arise for their home, job, childcare, etc.

Your prospective Guest has been accepted...

- You and your Guest will each receive a letter of acceptance from the weekend rector 3-6 weeks before the weekend. You will be given the privilege of delivering the acceptance letter to your Guest!
- Inform your church 4th Day community and/or pastor that the guest has been accepted
- Contact friends and family of the Guest who are 4th Dayers, inform them of the weekend and palanca
- Arrange for church and personal palanca from your Ultreya group
- Make transportation arrangements with your Guest. Make every effort to work out any pressing concerns your Guest may have before they go on the weekend to free them from outside concerns
- Check with your Guest 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
- Material palanca may be delivered to the mailroom on Thursday night
- Group palanca is delivered during the weekend as possible
- Write palanca letters to your Guest, label them clearly as Sponsor Day 1, Day 2, Day 3
- Encourage your 4th Day community to WRITE LETTERS too!
- Personal palanca should be well labeled, and will be distributed by the mailroom staff
- Mail palanca will be delivered daily - Gift palanca will all be held until the end of the weekend
- Off-site prayer partners are needed 24/7 on the weekends. Contact the weekend leadership to sign up as a Palanca Prayer Warrior for the weekends!

The Weekend Arrives...

- Provide transportation to and from the weekend for your Guest, ensuring they have a dinner meal prior to arrival
- Upon arrival, help them get settled and comfortable, introduce them to people you may know, and stay only briefly

The Weekend Progresses...

- If the Guest has a spouse or family at home, ensure their needs are met in the absence of the Guest. Deliver a meal, help with snow removal, or other tasks as may arise. If you cannot do this yourself, engage your 4th Day community to assist in this loving act of palanca!
- Be sure the family knows to contact you (or a designated 4th Day member) to help with any emergencies that may arise
- As appropriate, arrange for child care for the wife's closing service so the husband can attend
- The sponsor or co-sponsor must attend the Sunday evening serenades and closing service
- Be sensitive to the Guest's needs at the closing reception. Some are in a hurry to go home, some just want to talk

Following up & following through...

- Help the new 4th Dayer become an integral part and member of their church and the 4th Day community
- Contact your Guest in person the week following VDC if possible as they are still sorting out thoughts about the weekend
- Encourage the new 4th Dayer to be a part of a renewal group – you could even shepherd a new group to get it started
- Take the new 4th Dayer to Ultreyas and introduce into the broader VDC community
- Encourage your Guest to serve on the next Team

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

