

KWA-ZULU NATAL EMMAUS COMMUNITY

REQUIREMENTS OF SPONSORSHIP

Only someone who has been on a *Walk to Emmaus* or an *Alarga Stroll* can fulfill this role. Sponsorship does not require paying for participants, but rather ensuring that they derive spiritual benefit from the weekend experience. It involves:

1. Prayerful selection of applicants in consultation with the sponsor's accountability group and the applicant's minister or pastor.
2. Writing a short motivation on how the applicant fulfils the criteria for admission on the weekend and submitting it, together with the application forms and deposit, to the registrar for consideration by the Kwa-Zulu Natal Emmaus Community Board.
3. Support for the *Walk* or *Stroll* before, during and after. This includes the following:
 - Praying for the applicant.
 - Explaining the *Walk* or *Stroll* to the candidate and his/her spouse before submitting this application form.
 - Discuss the weekend with his/her family/friends for appropriate support and encouragement and care for them over the period of the weekend.
 - Arrange for transport to and from the weekend venue.
 - Participate in activities that make the weekend a special blessing.
 - Help the applicant attend follow-up activities after the *Walk* or *Stroll*.

Emmaus relies on sponsorship to bring other Christians from all walks of life, denominations and races, to share this experience. The personal character of sponsorship underlines the personal care and commitment of God to *each Pilgrim*. With the Emmaus experience being passed on from person to person, this reflects the nature of God and the manner in which God reaches out to people through people.

Sponsorship is integral to some of the unique features and strengths of Emmaus - a discerning approach to recruitment, personal agape and prayer for the pilgrim, plus the sponsors' presence at sponsors' hour, send-off, candlelight, closing and getting the pilgrim involved in a reunion/accountability group.

Because of sponsorship, Emmaus weekends have never been cancelled due to lack of participants. As a pilgrim we all want to share the gift of those 3 days with others. Wise sponsorship assists Emmaus in making the three days an act of relevant and appropriate sacrificial love from the beginning to the end.

Appropriate sponsorship cannot be over emphasized. The quality of sponsorship influences the pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus movement and the church being affected by the Emmaus movement. Good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus movement that is fulfilling its true purpose - the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church in ministry.

Remember a *Walk* or *Stroll* can only accommodate the maximum of 4 pilgrims from any one church, the reasons being:

- (i) too many leaders away from the same church will place a strain on that congregation considering that there may also be people serving on team from the same church.
- (ii) more than 4 pilgrims presents difficulties in placing them on tables - a pilgrim should not be on the same table as another member of their church.

Why do we sponsor?

One should sponsor with the follow aims - to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians, who in turn will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace and community and to build up the body of Christ. Sponsorship is not "to get all my friends to go", to fill up the weekend, or to fix people's problems.

Things to avoid in sponsorship

Do not sponsor a pilgrim because you believe they will have fun!

Do not sponsor if you are on team for the same weekend, because:

- (i) you cannot fulfill your sponsorship duties fully since a pilgrim's family cannot contact you if necessary
- (ii) you cannot effectively pray for your pilgrim
- (iii) you cannot transport your pilgrim to and from the venue and attend the weekend activities.

Do not sponsor just because you had a wonderful time and therefore you believe everyone will - this not true. Do not tell people they HAVE to attend Emmaus; Emmaus is a ministry, it is not THE ministry.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION FOR ALARGA STROLL PILGRIMS

The *Walk to Emmaus* programme has been developed specifically for the Development of Christian leaders. *Alarga* (reaching out) is an officially adapted *Walk to Emmaus* that embraces people with physical disabilities and follows the Emmaus format very closely.

ALARGA IS NOT SUITABLE FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, OR THE VERY ELDERLY.

An *ALARGA STROLL* differs from Emmaus in three main ways -

1. Both men and women are accepted on the same Stroll.
2. The number of talks is reduced from fifteen to twelve, by combining some Emmaus talks.
3. The talks are also reduced from twenty minutes to fifteen minutes duration.

All the course content is retained, as are all those 'special' features of a standard *Walk to Emmaus* weekend.

Alarga must not be offered as an alternative to the Walk to Emmaus for couples who do not wish to take their walks separately.

If husbands and wives are present, they do not share sleeping accommodation or sit at the same table in the conference room. They are able to share during breaks and free time.

The slower pace that is achieved by the changes made in the conference room allows more time for dressing and showering and for a rest time of one to one and a half hours in the afternoon in preparation for the evening activities. This does not include Sunday afternoon.

While an *Alarga Stroll* is slower paced than a *Walk to Emmaus*, it remains a very full and long weekend. Each day starts at about 06:15am and finishes around 22:30pm. Sunday concludes at approximately 16:00pm

At the *Alarga Stroll* closing you will witness the same blessings and joys experienced by the pilgrims on a *Walk to Emmaus*. Please prayerfully consider the needs and capabilities of your potential pilgrim before you enthusiastically sponsor them for an *Alarga Stroll*.

Your pilgrims need to be able and happy to meet this commitment for the three days.

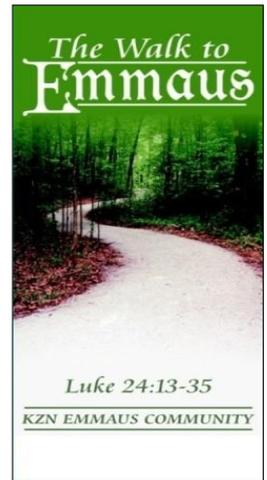
Alarga Stroll team members will include those who have experience in working with people with disabilities and their special needs. A comprehensive assessment of pilgrims prior to the weekend and before acceptance of registration will be carried out to assess the capabilities of the pilgrim and determine if their needs can be met on the weekend. Please make your pilgrim aware of this fact.

If this assessment is not done in depth, then the pilgrims and weekend will suffer.

The *Alarga Stroll* has a 4th Assistant Lay Director called the *Caregiver*. This person will have nursing experience and will be specifically responsible for medication and other special needs of the pilgrims and team.

It is desirable that half the pilgrims are able-bodied, and to have been fully informed about the Alarga Stroll and have no reservations about spending three days with people with physical disabilities.

Alarga Stroll pilgrims are immediately absorbed into an existing Emmaus community after their weekend





SPONSOR'S CHECKLIST for and **ALARGA STROLL**

A pilgrim's attendance on the weekend needs to be prayerfully considered and is dependent on you as a sponsor fulfilling your obligations.

Please carefully read the following checklist and initial next to each responsibility to indicate that this sponsorship has been approached appropriately.

This form MUST be returned with the pilgrim's application form before the Registrar will consider the application

Pilgrim's Name Walk No. 103

1	I have prayerfully considered this pilgrim's suitability and readiness for the weekend.	
2	The pilgrim is currently committed to or involved in the church.	
3	I have approached the pilgrim's minister or pastor who indicates their support.	
4	I have explained the Emmaus programme and the financial implication to the pilgrim.	
5	I have taken a prayer slot/s on the weekend 72-hour prayer schedule.	
6	I have organised and will collect agape letters for the pilgrim. <i>(No presents, flowers or large items please).</i>	
7	I am aware of my commitment to my Pilgrim over the weekend.	
	I have arranged to take my pilgrim to the weekend venue	
	I will attend Sponsor's Hour, pray for my pilgrim and be at the send-off	
	I will attend Candlelight	
	I will attend the Closing Ceremony	
	I will collect my pilgrim at the end of the weekend	
8	Which Accountability group will you encourage your pilgrim to join?	
9	I will encourage my pilgrim to attend future gatherings with me.	
10	I will encourage my Pilgrim to follow through on fresh hopes and new commitments.	
11	I will encourage my Pilgrim to serve the Emmaus Community (and future <i>Walks and Strolls</i>).	
12	I will help my Pilgrim sponsor others.	
13	I will continue to pray for my Pilgrim.	
14	Is the applicant married? Is the spouse also being sponsored?	
15	I have attached my letter of motivation in support of the Pilgrim's application.	

Sponsor's Name: Cell No:

Phone No: (H) (W)

E-mail address: Date:

Name of Accountability Group