

LCSC Sponsor Guidelines

Your service to the Pilgrims begins now—with preparation for their needs on the weekend —and continues well into the Fourth Day. Your actions as a sponsor will directly affect the experience that your Pilgrim will have during the Cursillo weekend. Please review below your responsibilities before, during, and after your Pilgrim's Cursillo weekend.

In general, you should only sponsor one Pilgrim for a given Cursillo weekend. Enlist other members of your Grouping or Community to assist you, if possible, with additional Pilgrims. We do not recommend that you sponsor a pilgrim while planning on working the same weekend. But if you choose to do otherwise, you should ensure that your responsibilities to the Team **and** the Pilgrim will be met.

BEFORE THE WEEKEND:

- 1. Communication of Pilgrim Needs:** The Cursillo can be a very emotional experience. If your Pilgrim is undergoing counseling or similar, it is critical that the counselor and your Pastor agrees with the Pilgrim's attendance. If you have any concerns in this area, contact the LCSC Registrar immediately. Also see "Who should go to Cursillo" document on the website, www.lcsocal.org.

The sponsor will make every effort to notify the Rector/a or Registrar of the specific needs and requirements upon submitting the application for reservation.

The sponsor is ultimately responsible to ascertain any dietary restrictions, preferences or medical needs that will require special preparations or possible treatment during the course of the weekend.

- 2. Arrange Transportation:** The sponsor provides transportation to and from the Cursillo Retreat Center for the weekend. If you cannot provide this transportation, arrange to have your spouse or another sponsor from your church provide transportation. Your Pilgrim should arrive at the Retreat Center between 7 and 8 p.m. on Thursday evening, closer to 7 than 8 if possible. The Pilgrim is not to drive his or her own car to the Cursillo Retreat Center.

Offer to pick up a sandwich for the Pilgrim on the way to the Retreat Center or plan to stop for a quick meal, as they probably will not have had dinner. There is no provision for the Pilgrim to eat a meal at the Retreat Center on Thursday evening.

- 3. Palanca:** All palanca is based on prayer and sacrifice. It is meant to encourage, strengthen, and uplift the Pilgrim.
 - **Prayers and Notes:** Prayers, personal hand written note cards, and small tokens are encouraged. In your notes, you may want to list the prayers and sacrifices that you are making for the Pilgrim during the weekend. Encourage other Cursillistas, family members, and special friends to pray for and write notes to your Pilgrim.

All tokens of palanca given should be small and fit easily into the palanca bag. Large items such as t-shirts, cups, shirts, etc. should be presented to the Pilgrim's after the weekend's Clausura.

- **Banner:** Traditionally, Pilgrims on an LCSC weekend receive a banner. If a banner is not required, you will be notified in the notification letter.

Designing and Preparing: You are responsible for your Pilgrims' banner, but you do not have to put it together all yourself. You can solicit help from other Cursillistas in your church community. Some communities have palanca parties where they do community palanca and make banners. This is so others can use their talents and gifts to assist in designing and preparing a banner. Contact your Parish Representative on how to organize one. If you need additional help in preparing banners, contact the Secretariat Palanca Chairman.

Banner Guidelines: Banners should not exceed 25" by 23" (approximately the size of an unfolded sheet of newspaper; for example the front page of the LA Times). Simplicity is urged. It is highly

LCSC Sponsor Guidelines

recommended that banners be made of felt or fabric. Banners that relate to the theme verse are encouraged or to some special aspects of the Pilgrim's life.

- **Devotional Book:** Each Pilgrim receives a devotional book from the sponsor. You may want to give a book which meant a great deal to you, and which you want to share with the Pilgrim. Please wrap the book with the Pilgrim's name clearly marked.

All palanca should be delivered to the facility no later than Thursday evening. Please do not display the Palanca to your Pilgrim. Friday is closed campus and is not available for you to drop off additional Palanca.

DURING THE WEEKEND:

1. **Prayer:** Pray for your Pilgrim
2. **Communication:** Keep in touch with Pilgrim's family and make sure they are fine in the absence of their family member.
3. **Emergency:** Note that in case of an emergency, we have a team member who is designated as the emergency contact person on a weekend. You will be provided with their cell phone number.
4. **Attend Mañanitas and Clausura* ** *****
 - **Mañanitas** begins promptly at 6:00 a.m. You should arrive at the Retreat Center for Mañanitas on Sunday Morning by 5:50 a.m. Flowers for Mañanitas are not provided by LCSC. Plan to bring your own flowers or candy to pass out.
 - **Clausura** generally starts around 3:30 p.m. Please arrive in time to recover your Pilgrim's belongings from the dorm **BEFORE** Clausura. Scheduled Clausura time will be announced at Mañanitas. The Sponsor sits directly behind the Pilgrim at Clausura.

*The Pilgrim's **children** are not permitted to attend Mañanitas or Clausura. Children of the Pilgrim should have their reunion with their parents at home. The Clausura proceedings are sometimes lengthy and emotional. Children will want their parents all to themselves. Husbands and wives need time to talk about their weekend experience.

The Pilgrim's **spouses are not permitted to attend Mañanitas.

***The Pilgrim's **spouses** (who already attended a Cursillo) should attend Clausura.

AFTER THE WEEKEND:

1. **Prayer:** Continue to pray for and encourage your Pilgrim in their 4th day.
2. **Ultreya:** Encourage the Pilgrim to attend the Grand Ultreya and other Ultreyas. This is a time they can re-connect with others from the weekend. Offer to drive them to the Ultreya.
3. **Grouping:** Get your Cursillistas connected and into a group – this is the most important post weekend duty of a sponsor. Help them form a group, or become a member of an existing group. If they would like to form a new group, you may wish to sit in on their group for a few sessions to help keep the new group on track. Invite new Cursillistas into your group, if the other members agree.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions, please contact your LCSC Parish Representative, the LCSC Registrar, or any LCSC Secretariat Member. LCSC mailing address : **P.O. Box 5203, Cerritos, CA 90703-5203**.
LCSC website: **www.lcsocal.org**.