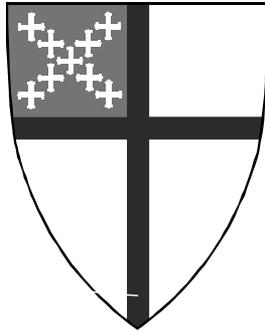


NATIONAL EPISCOPAL CURSILLO



**GROWING
CHRIST-CENTERED
LEADERS**

Sponsorship

Booklet #9

2005

Order #204

SPONSORSHIP

The heart and soul of the Cursillo Movement is sponsorship. It is a great responsibility to be a sponsor and it is an honor to be asked to attend a Cursillo Weekend. Everyone who has attended a Cursillo Weekend has done so because someone thought enough of them as a Christian to invite them.

Sponsorship is the result of a Cursillista who, having studied an environment, has selected a person deemed to be a (potential) leader in that environment, for the purpose of making that environment more Christian. The goal of the Cursillo Movement is to change environments for Christ, and candidates chosen for a Cursillo Weekend should be Christians who will be counted on to return to their environments for the purpose of witnessing to the power of the Holy Spirit in their own lives. The Cursillistas who are considering sponsorship should already be such witnesses themselves. For Cursillo to continue to be a force for positive change in the Church, sponsorship must be seen as the most crucial element in the development of new Christian (Cursillo) leaders.

Keeping in mind that Cursillo is about *the Fourth Day*, the aim of sponsorship—and the Cursillo experience—should be the development of persons who will be active in *the Fourth Day* (see the NEC publications *What is Cursillo?*, and *Fourth Day First*). The purpose of this booklet is to assist the Cursillo Community and individual Cursillistas to develop and to practice strong sponsorship skills, so that more Cursillistas will be engaged in the *Fourth Day* in ways that are helpful and meaningful to them.

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National Episcopal Cursillo®

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Sponsorship is an activity of the local Cursillo Movement. To this end, the process must begin with the Secretariat and the Servant Community, who are responsible to the diocesan bishop for the overall mission of the Movement. If these leaders take the role of sponsorship seriously, then the candidates will be prepared when they attend their Weekends, and *the Fourth Day* will become stronger in those diocesan Movements.

There are at least five identifiable roles for Secretariat and Servant Community in the sponsorship of candidates:

1. There should be a clearly-specified set of written guidelines for both sponsors and candidates, of which every Cursillista is aware. The candidate for a Three-Day Weekend must be a member of the Episcopal Church, mature and emotionally stable, be desirous of God's love, and have a longing to do God's work in the Church and in the world. Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (which is in full communion with the Episcopal Church) may participate, provided permission from both bishops is received. The Cursillo community must always know that candidates for the Weekend have met these requirements. The Secretariat, as the policy-making body in a local Movement, is responsible for enforcing these requirements.
2. One role of the Servant community in the sponsorship of candidates is to have available a sufficient quantity of clean, up-to-date application forms, and to distribute them to members of the community as needed. Also, the Pre-Cursillo Committee of the Servant community ought to have a well-understood set of guidelines for the submission of candidate applications, including procedures for turning them in and deadlines for doing so. Each diocesan movement has its own needs in this respect, and potential sponsors should be aware of the guidelines. If followed, these guidelines make for an orderly and consistent Pre-Cursillo process.

3. The Pre-Cursillo Committee has a vital role in communicating with sponsors prior to a Three-Day Weekend. Sponsors need to be reminded of all their responsibilities toward the candidates, such as explaining what Cursillo is all about, introducing the candidates to *the Fourth Day*, ascertaining their willingness to participate, praying for them during this process, taking the candidates to and from the Weekend site, mobilizing palanca for the candidates, participating in all of the scheduled events during the Weekend, and attending the Day of Deeper Understanding (local movements may call this event by other names) with their new Cursillistas. It may also be important to discuss the cost of the Weekend with candidates, depending on local customs. The Pre-Cursillo Committee's role in this process is crucial in helping candidates to fully experience the Cursillo, and also in making the task of the Three-Day Weekend team easier.

4. The role of the Cursillo community in sponsorship is also important. First and foremost, prayer for the candidates (and the team) should begin as soon as a Weekend is planned, and should not end until well after the Weekend. Preparation of palanca should be done as soon as possible before the Weekend, and taken or sent to the person in charge of organizing its distribution to team and candidates. The community should also be engaged in volunteering for any number of tasks which will be helpful to the team during the Weekend. The community should make it a priority to attend as many of the events surrounding a Weekend as possible, as a thankful reminder of what was done for them when they were candidates and team members. The more response from the Cursillo community, the more effective will be the sponsorship of the candidates.

5. Sponsorship is a process which is on-going in the life of a Cursillista. If we are always looking for persons who would be appropriate candidates for Cursillo, and

praying for those persons, sponsorship will happen; then more persons will be involved in *the Fourth Day*, there will always be good candidates for Weekends, and the work of evangelism in the Church will be more effective. Adequate preparation of sponsors can take the form of either a letter containing the set of guidelines, a formal training workshop for sponsors, or both.

Following is an example of a candidate application for Cursillo. Each diocesan movement will have its own application, but basically, it will appear like this one. There are three parts: the candidate's portion, the sponsor's portion, and the clergy sponsor's portion. All three must be completed prior to submission.

**(Your Diocese) Episcopal Cursillo Community
Candidate Application
(Print legibly)**

Name _____

Preferred Name _____

Sex: M ___ F ___ Birthdate _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Occupation _____

Telephone (include area code)

(Day) _____ (Evening) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Parish: _____ City _____

Have you been baptized? Y ___ N ___

If yes, where? _____

How often do you attend church services? _____

Do you require a special diet? _____

Do you have any emotional or physical problems which
might make your Cursillo difficult? _____

Do you have any allergies? Y ___ N ___

(Foods-Please list) _____

(Perfumes) ___ (Cigarette smoke) ___

(Other) _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Sponsor's Telephone, with area code:

(Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Candidate's Signature _____

Date _____

**(Your Diocese) Episcopal Cursillo Community
Sponsor Form**

Instructions:

- . Print Legibly.
- . Fill out separate applications for couples.
- . Please supply e-mail address if you have one.
- . Please be sure you send in the deposit with the application.
- . Reservations will not be complete until the deposit is received.
- . DO NOT send the pages in separately.

Sponsor Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone with area code _____

Parish of which you are a member _____

City _____

E-mail _____

Candidate's Name _____

Date and Diocese of Your Cursillo Weekend

Are You:

Grouping? Y ___ N ___ Attending Ultreyas? ___

How do you plan to support your candidate in his/her

Fourth Day journey?

AS A SPONSOR I WILL:

- . Pray for my candidate before, during and after the Weekend.
- . Do palanca for my candidate and write him/her a note telling of my prayer or sacrifice on his/her behalf.
- . Help my candidate find a Group Reunion and invite him/her to Ultreyas (Feel free to invite him/her before the Weekend, too.)
- . Arrange for or provide transportation to and from the Weekend.
- . Attend Clausura service on Sunday and take him/her to the Day of Deeper Understanding.
- . If my candidate is unable to attend, notify the registrar as soon as possible.
- . Answer any and all questions my candidate may have prior to the Weekend.

Signature_____

Date_____

When candidate form, sponsor form and clergy sponsor form are all completed and signed, please send all forms and deposit no later than_____ to:

Mary Jones
123 Anystreet
Anywhere, USA ZIP

**(Your Diocese) Episcopal Cursillo Community
Clergy Form**

Instructions:

- . Print Legibly
- . Fill out separate applications for couples
- . Please supply e-mail address.
- . Incomplete forms will be returned to the sponsor

Candidate Name _____

I believe this person to be prepared for a Cursillo

Weekend. Y ___ N ___

Date and Diocese of your Cursillo Weekend

Priest's Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

E-mail address: _____

The Spiritual Director of the _____ Episcopal

Cursillo Community is the Rev. _____.

Feel free to contact him/her if you have not attended a Cursillo Weekend and need further information to assist you.

When candidate form, sponsor form, and clergy sponsor form are all completed and signed, please cut out sponsor responsibilities section and save, and mail the forms with the candidate's deposit check to:

Mary Jones
123 Anystreet
Anywhere, USA ZIP

National Episcopal Cursillo®
2683 Highway 701 N. #4
Conway SC 29526-3882
Phone: 843-488-2956 Toll Free 877-ULTREYA
Fax: 843-488-2693
necoffice@episcopalcurso.org
www.episcopalcurso.org