Tips to Sponsoring for a Koinonia Weekend

Sponsoring can seem like a very daunting task but with the right tools it can be a fun and enjoyable experience. The following are some tips that will hopefully make sponsoring easier.

1. First, prayerfully consider whom you would like to sponsor. When you approach them if they have any questions in regards to the weekend there is information they can access on the home page of our website. It explains what Koinonia is and gives an overview of the weekend. Please try to refrain from using the word secret when describing the weekend. There are many things you can talk about without giving away any of the surprises.

2. Once you have approached a potential candidate and they have agreed to attend it is important to complete both candidate and sponsor application and submit it as soon as possible. (Applications are available through the website and at closings and ultreyas) Once they are completed submit them to the address listed on the application. You will receive a call from the candidate coordinator around two months prior to the weekend. At that time it is up to the sponsor to contact their candidate and verify they are ready for the weekend.

3. Now that you have verified your candidate is ready to attend it is time to start the banner and gathering other forms of Palanca. The banner is unique to the candidate and it is whatever you make of it. There is a banner recipe available to help with some of the specifics. Other forms of Palanca could include letters of encouragement from friends and family as well as small gifts or apparel items. You can also give your candidate a Fourth Day gift once they have completed their weekend.

4. The cost of the weekend is $100.00. Some sponsors choose to pay this for their candidates, while others ask the candidate to pay or even split the cost. There are also scholarships available. We don't want anyone to not attend due to finances.

5. Make sure you have coordinated with your candidate transportation to the Greene Family Commons at Chautauqua Institution and home again on Sunday evening. **It is important your candidate does not arrive prior to 7:30 on Friday evening**. Their banners and palanca also need to be delivered on Friday evening once the candidates begin their weekend.

6. Plan on being involved throughout the weekend. You can sign up to serve meals, work in the kitchen or help with clean up. Holy Hour begins at 8:30pm Saturday evening at Hurlbut Church. Holy Hour is followed by the serenade and grace walk. Please be at Greene Family Commons Hall by 4:15pm on Sunday for Break-in and closing to follow.

7. Once your candidate has completed their weekend you may choose to give them a 4th day gift or send them a card or letter. You can also invite them and accompany them to the new member ultreya. You may also offer to help them sponsor a candidate of their own. Remember your responsibility as a sponsor does not end with the weekend.

Most importantly pray for the candidates and team before, throughout and after the weekend. Decolores!