

Houston Emmaus Community Guidelines for Pilgrim Reservation

In accordance with the policies established by the Houston North Emmaus Community Board of Directors, we ask that you take special note of the following questions on this *Request for Reservation*. The Board has directed the Registrar to return any applications where these questions are not fully answered and to request additional information before accepting the application. It will help register you more quickly if you take note of these questions. Thanks!

INFORMATION REGARDING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP. Because Emmaus is not intended to make disciples, but rather to strengthen those who are already disciples, persons accepted for a Walk are expected to be active members of a Christian congregation. ALL EXCEPTIONS to this policy must be approved in advance by the Community Spiritual Director; please note this before you send the application in; otherwise, we may have to return it to you.

Please indicate on this form the NAME and DENOMINATION of the congregation in which you are an active member. Students may indicate the church they presently attend, if they have not formally moved membership during the school year.

INFORMATION REGARDING SPECIAL NEEDS. If you do not understand the question, “*Has the Walk to Emmaus been explained to you?*”, please talk to your sponsor before you complete this form. Your sponsor should not sign this form until he/she has explained Emmaus and its follow-up to you.

It is especially important that we know if you need a special diet, take medication, have any special needs or challenges. It is rare that any such need cannot be met, so that you can participate fully in the Walk to Emmaus; however, we need to know as far ahead as possible so that we can make your Walk a fulfilling experience for you. **None of this information will be released** except to those responsible for meeting your needs.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED ON THIS FORM. There are THREE signatures required on this form. ALL of them must be included, or we will return the form to you for completion, thereby delaying your reservation. It is the responsibility of the SPONSOR to see that these signatures are complete.

1. **Your own signature.** This is your free commitment to accept God’s invitation to attend the Walk. Therefore, you must sign the form personally, not by a sponsor, friend or spouse (who cannot make such a free commitment for you.)
2. **Your Pastor’s signature.** This signature is the commitment of the Pastor of the congregation in which you serve, to work with you in developing your service to God after the Walk. Your pastor does not need to have completed a Walk himself/herself; however, Emmaus is not intended to bypass or usurp the authority of the pastor of your congregation in any way. If your pastor is opposed to your attending a Walk to Emmaus, you will not be able to serve effectively after the Walk and you will only be frustrated and discouraged. Your SPONSOR should contact the pastor on your behalf, or with you, to help explain Emmaus and assure those who are uncertain or hesitant. Please call on the Community Spiritual Director for any assistance in explaining Emmaus. Obviously it is meaningless to have any minister other than your own pastor sign this form, since it completely defeats the purpose of the pastor’s signature.
3. **Your Sponsor’s signature.** This is your sponsor’s commitment, both to you and the Emmaus community, that he/she will help you prepare for the Walk, care for your loved ones and family during your Walk, and help you become more active in service after your Walk. This signature emphasizes the great importance the Walk to Emmaus places on your sponsor.