

HOW TO SPONSER - - - - Twelve Steps



1. **Plan.** Plan with other sponsors to sponsor more than one young person from your church, if possible. They will have friends with whom to go and with whom to share their "next steps." Plan especially to sponsor those whose leadership and involvement will vitalize the youth group and church.



2. **Pray.** Pray about those you would like to sponsor and others whom God would lead you to sponsor. Pray for the young people's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get them to go on a Chrysalis weekend. Set out to trust God to motivate those to go whom God would have go.



3. **Set an appointment.** Share with potential caterpillars the purpose of Chrysalis, its benefit for you, some of the positive aspects of the three days and the follow-up dimension. Also make an appointment to share in more depth with the parents or guardians the basic elements and values of Chrysalis. Alleviate their concerns. Provide the information and assurances they may need.



4. **Extend an invitation and seek a commitment.** Explain the cost. Have the attitude that you are giving them a wonderful gift rather than that they "need" to go. Ask them to make a commitment by filling out the registration form.



5. **Collaborate as co-sponsors.** Work with another young person or adult as a co-sponsor, if that will help. Sometimes it takes more than one sponsor to get the job of sponsorship done well. Young or inexperienced sponsors often need to work with a mature co-sponsor. Adult Chrysalis leaders, especially the Chrysalis registrar, need to pay attention to situations where assistance may be needed and where co-sponsorship with another young person or adult may help.



6. **Make preparations for the young person.** Continue to pray for them. Enlist the support of the pastor. Collect ten to twenty personal agape letters. Do not ask the team to deliver personal gifts to them from you or from anyone else during the weekend. Make sure the person being sponsored knows what to bring, what clothes to wear and that he/she will be expected to stay on site throughout the three days.



7. **Make sacrifices for the young person.** Plan to handle whatever responsibilities need attention on behalf of the young person during the three days: feeding the dog, mowing the lawn, babysitting, etc. Think about things you can do that will really help them and even make it possible for them, if necessary.



8. **Support Chrysalis during the three days.** Sign up for the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil, be present at Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight and Closing. Invite the young person's parents to Send-Off, Sponsor's Hour, and Closing, where appropriate. Prepare the parents for the nature of the Closing experience.



9. **Encourage new Butterflies to join Next Steps Groups.** Give them an opportunity to talk about their three-day experience and what it meant to them. Help new Butterflies find a group. Start a group with them, if necessary.



10. **Take your Butterfly to Hoots or Gatherings.** Invite new Butterflies to go to Hoots or Gatherings with you for a couple of months or more. Help them feel that they are a part of what's going on. Help your Butterfly know how he/she can participate in the Chrysalis Community, support upcoming Chrysalis Weekends and someday be on teams.



11. **Help new Butterflies act on new commitments.** Invite them to become part of your church and youth group, if they don't have one. Encourage them to follow through on fresh hopes and dreams, decisions and changes they feel God is calling them to make.



12. **Help new Butterflies sponsor others.** Assist them the first time they sponsor someone else. Make sure they know the responsibilities and expectations of sponsors. Above all, be a model sponsor yourself. Set a good example. Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for young people, for the Chrysalis community, and for that church. It is a living demonstration of agape love. Through sponsorship, we become instruments of God's design and desire for the person we sponsor.

WHO NOT TO SPONSOR

Chrysalis is right for many young people, but not for all. Sponsors need to be sensitive to factors which may make Chrysalis wrong for a young person or a young person wrong for Chrysalis, at least at the time. Here are some examples of situations that warrant caution and care:

1. Young people with no interest in the Christian faith or the church. When young persons have no interest in what the three days are about or their motives for going are clearly unrelated to the nature of the Chrysalis weekend, sponsors should reconsider the timing and appropriateness of their participation.
2. Young persons whose religious background is incompatible or notably different from the theology and practice represented in Chrysalis. These persons should be sponsored only after considerable discussion about what happens on the Chrysalis experience, the young person's desire to know more about Christian faith and the parent's support.
3. Young people whose parents do not want them to participate. Sponsors should never allow Chrysalis to become or be used as a point of division between young people and their parents.
4. Young people whose pattern is to disrupt. Sponsors should be sure the persons they sponsor have a desire to go to Chrysalis for the right reasons. Participants need to have enough maturity to behave appropriately and to cooperate with the flow of the three days. Otherwise, they will hurt the experience for everyone else. Chrysalis teams are not prepared to deal with major discipline problems. Furthermore, Chrysalis is not designed to fix chronic behavior problems.
5. Young people undergoing crisis or trauma of some type: family break-up, severe grief, mental or emotional instability. Young persons undergoing such trials maybe so inwardly distracted that they cannot really receive the weekend at this time. Moreover, the needs of seriously distracted and distraught participants can obstruct the weekend experience for the others by dominating table discussions and the time of the leaders.
6. Young persons who decide not to go to Chrysalis over and over again. Sponsors should not feel upset or take it personally if a prospect says no. Chrysalis is not a requirement for salvation! Nor is Chrysalis the best way for every young person to meet and grow in the Lord. We must rely on the Holy Spirit to motivate young people in God's own time and fashion to receive the spiritual guidance they need.