

Tres Dias Sponsorship Guidelines

Sponsorship is a vital part of the Tres Dias experience and, if the community is to grow spiritually and numerically, it must provide the weekend experience to new candidates. The only way a person may become a candidate is to be sponsored by a Pescadore. Because sponsorship is a very serious responsibility and can not be taken lightly, the sponsor should seek God's will and guidance through prayer as to whom to sponsor and be sensitive in approaching a potential candidate.

The Tres Dias movement endeavors to bring Christians to a closer, more personal walk with their Lord Jesus Christ and encourage them to Christian leadership and Apostolic Action in their environments. There are three sequential phases to the Tres Dias experience:

1. The Pre-weekend
2. The weekend
3. The Fourth Day

The weekend will not produce a permanent effect without Fourth Day activity, and, therefore, the sponsor is sponsoring the prospective candidate for participation in all phases of the Tres Dias Movement, rather than just the weekend. The sponsor must encourage growth after the weekend by helping the new Pescadore to apply the principles of piety, study and action.

- Sponsors must be selective. It has been said that the sponsor should know the potential candidate well enough to be able to fill in the candidate's application. The sponsor should be aware of any special needs of the candidate, i.e., dietary, medical, physical, emotional. While we all have our concerns, deep emotional or physical problems should not be brought to the weekend in hope of a quick cure. If the candidate has been through a divorce, widowed, or other traumatic event, it is highly recommended that the candidate wait at least one year prior to submitting an

application. The weekend is not a sensitivity training nor group therapy experience. Rather it employs group dynamics, theological instruction and silent introspection to foster a spiritual renewal experience. It asks for basic faith, openness and a seeking attitude on the part of the candidate. Therefore, the sponsors should ask themselves if the potential candidate is a Christian who is open and seeking to share in a full Christian life, part of which is an expression of service to others. The weekend is an encounter with Jesus and intended to develop Christian leadership. It is not a weekend intended to convert or preach Christ to people who do not know Him.

- Sponsors should be active in the Tres Dias community for six months before submitting an application for sponsorship.
- As required for potential candidates, sponsors should be living a lifestyle becoming to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His or the Church's teachings.
- Candidates must be at least 21 years of age.
- The sponsor's responsibility begins ideally two months before the weekend and continues six months after. Consistent with the sustained commitment required of the sponsor before, during and after the candidate's weekend, a sponsor shall be permitted only one candidate per weekend. However, each partner of a married couple may sponsor a separate individual on the same weekend.
- If the candidate is a married female, it is the policy of Tres Dias that the husband must first make his Tres Dias weekend. Exceptions will be considered only in extenuating circumstances and only upon special petition (to be submitted with the application) by the sponsor.

- If the candidate is married, the husband and wife's applications should be submitted together. As previously stated, Tres Dias is three phases (i.e., pre-weekend, the weekend and the Fourth day), and the sponsor's commitment extends beyond the weekend. Therefore, applications are discouraged for candidates living outside the Tri-State Tres Dias geographic area if the candidate will not be able to have the post-weekend support of a Tres Dias or Cursillo community, participate in a Reunion group, and attend Secuelas. Further, if there is a Tres Dias community in the area where the candidate resides, the sponsor is strongly encouraged to have the potential candidate attend a weekend in his/her local Tres Dias community. Exceptions will be considered only in extenuating circumstances and only upon special petition (to be submitted with the application) by the sponsor.

- The sponsor should discuss with potential candidates whether or not they have counseled with their pastor regarding the weekend. The sponsor should provide the candidate any information that would help them prepare for the weekend. The sponsor needs to be supportive of the candidate. The primary responsibility is to pray for the candidate prior to and during the weekend. The sponsor should be prepared to:

1. Provide transportation to and from the weekend.
2. Assist the candidate's family during and after the weekend.
3. Provide for any special needs of the candidate during the weekend.
4. Assist the candidate in finding a Reunion group.