

UPDATED JULY 2010



Ministry of a UEC Sponsor

As a Sponsor, you will be giving your friend a marvelous opportunity to enjoy the Spirit of Christ in a joyous Unidos en Cristo (UEC) weekend similar to your own. This is a ministry in which you should feel privileged and honored to participate. God has put someone on your heart who needs a fresh blessing of His grace and has called you to provide for that person. There are many ways you can make your Sponsorship more effective and the experience for your Weekender the best it can be.

We encourage you to follow this checklist to be the best Sponsor you can be:

- Now — PRAY** for your Weekender before, during and after his/her UEC weekend.
- ASAP — ATTEND SPONSOR TRAINING** offered at 3:00 pm on Sundays before any Men's Clausura.
- From now until the weekend — BE AVAILABLE** to your Weekender to answer any questions they may have. Be open and honest with your Weekender. Share the basic schedule of a typical day, share what you learned from one of the talks, share how you and your table-mates became close as you shared with each other even though there is no pressure, share that there are some wonderful and beautiful events that they will love and never forget. Remind your Weekender that there are many Christian churches and pastors that support the weekend. If you need help answering some questions, contact your Liaison or a member of the UEC Council.
- Within a month of the weekend —** If you do not know the person you are sponsoring, try to arrange a time to **GET TO KNOW YOUR WEEKENDER** before the weekend. Meeting for coffee is a good way to do this.
- Within a month of the weekend —** Find out if your Weekender has any **SPECIAL NEEDS** for the weekend. This may include helping him/her find childcare for the weekend. It may include requesting a roll-away bed for someone unable to easily get down to the mattress on the floor, or providing a close electrical outlet for a needed device such as a sleep apnea CPAP machine. Does your Weekender have allergies that the UEC team should be aware of (peanuts, gluten, etc.)? Contact the Rector/a with this information. As you consider special needs, please remember that UEC is happy to accommodate for medical, dietary, or allergy necessities, but we ask that mere preferences be taken care of otherwise.
- For consideration before the weekend — NOTIFY YOUR 4TH DAY COMMUNITY & SEND PALANCA:**
 - 1. Rollo Room Palanca:** Encourage your local 4th Day Community to give Rollo Room Palanca, providing enough for all Weekenders and team members in the Rollo Room. This might be small gifts representative of God's grace (bookmarks, small lapel pins, etc.) Or, they may wish to make a donation to a food shelf or other organization in honor of the Weekenders. Or, they may wish to donate some of the food needed for the weekend in honor of the Weekenders. If small gifts are sent, check the Palanca Press newsletter which will report how many pieces of Palanca should be delivered. If you donate money or food, please send a card to the weekend that can be read to the Weekenders explaining the donation (i.e. "Dear Women of UEC #240, SouthCross Community Church has donated \$50 to 2nd Harvest Food Shelf in your honor." or "Dear Men of UEC #241, Rosemount UMC has donated the ingredients and labor that went into your wonderful egg bake this morning for breakfast.")
 - 2. Personal Palanca:** You and other members of your church may wish to provide personal Palanca for your Weekender. These gifts will go into his/her Palanca Bag for pickup on Sunday evening. **NO** personal Palanca is delivered to the Rollo Room or to an individual so that all is fair and equal during the weekend.

The UEC Council gives each Cursillista a packet in their Palanca Bag that includes a welcome letter, a UEC brochure, a UEC DVD, a copy of the most recent Palanca Press newsletter, a Weekend Registration form, a Team Application, the Sponsorship issue of the Palanca Press that encourages sponsorship, and more.

- 2-3 weeks before the weekend —** Call your Weekender to make **TRANSPORTATION** arrangements. Provide transportation for your Weekender to and from the weekend. Explain that this is part of the gift of the weekend and all Sponsors will be delivering and picking up their Weekenders as well.

- ❑ **2-3 weeks before the weekend** — An **optional** tradition is to take your Weekender out for **DINNER** Thursday evening before delivering him/her to the Weekend. You'll want to make arrangements ahead of time. Some Sponsors have a "send off" for their Weekender, inviting other Cursillistas from their church to join them for dinner, letting the Weekender know they will all be praying for him/her during the weekend. Some Sponsors have dinner with their Weekender alone. It is important to do what your Weekender might enjoy. Some may not enjoy a large gathering. It is also important to keep it simple as this is when the progression of the weekend begins. Again, this is **optional**.
- ❑ **2-3 weeks before the weekend** — Purchase a **PERSONAL CUP OR MUG** for your Weekender. The cup will be a nice memory and when used in place of paper products, will help cut costs on the weekend. If you intend to take your Weekender to dinner on Thursday evening, this is a nice time to give your gift of a mug.
- ❑ **1-2 days before the weekend** — Check with your Weekender a day or two before the weekend to answer any last minute questions and to **GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT**. If there is a pressing concern with respect to your Weekender, please be sure that you or another Cursillista try to alleviate that concern. If appropriate, contact the Rector/a of the weekend and advise them, as well.
- ❑ **During the weekend** — **As a Sponsor, YOUR SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND is:**
 - Thursday evening: Dinner with your Weekender if desired. This is optional.
 - Thursday evening: Deliver your Weekender to the church between 7:30 - 8:00 pm.
 - Thursday evening: Before leaving the church, attend the Sponsor service, sign your Weekender's Bible and pick up your Weekender's Candle to burn throughout the weekend as you pray for your Weekender.
 - Sunday morning: Attend the Sponsor's Sunday Morning Serenade. Arrive at the church at 5:30 am.
 - Sunday afternoon: Attend the Sunday Evening Serenade. Arrive at the church at 4:00 pm.
 - Sunday afternoon: Attend the Clausura. Sit in the Sponsor section.
 - Sunday evening: Following the Clausura, attend the reception with your new Cursillista, introducing them to friends, other Cursillistas from your church, etc. Be sensitive to your Cursillista's needs, helping gather belongings and palanca bags before delivering them safely home. Remember, he/she will be tired and may be somewhat overwhelmed.
- ❑ **1-2 weeks after the weekend** — **CONTACT** your Cursillista during the week following the weekend. Give him/her the opportunity to discuss the weekend with you, to process all they experienced. Remind them about the Weekend Ultreya and offer to give him/her a ride to and from the Ultreya if needed. If you transport your Cursillista to the Ultreya, you are welcome to stay for it as well (bring a dish to share).
- ❑ **DURING THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE WEEKEND** —

Most Important – Stay in close personal contact with your Cursillista until:

 - He/she is settled in a Renewal Group and/or have become an active part of a local UEC 4th Day Community
 - He/she has sponsored another to attend UEC
 - He/she has served on a UEC team
- ❑ **Is your Cursillista from a church that does not have a UEC Community?** If so, we would ask you to help your Cursillista get a UEC 4th Day Community started in their church. The UEC New Church Coordinator can help you do this by contacting the pastor of the church and introducing him/her to UEC. Or, help your Cursillista find a UEC 4th Day Community that he/she can be involved with. Contact the Liaison there and ask them to welcome your Cursillista, putting him/her on their e-mail list for Ultreya announcements, etc. The UEC Liaison Coordinator can help you with this.

Being an involved and attentive Sponsor is key to the experience your Weekender will have before, during and after his/her weekend. Giving Palanca begins now as you pray for your Weekender. Being a Sponsor requires commitment, but the rewards are great. Ask the Lord for guidance and help to enable you to carry out your ministry as a Sponsor.

If you have any questions, please contact the Liaison at your church or a member of the UEC Council.

Abrazos!
UEC Council