

The Role of Confirmation Sponsor

The Sponsor is a spiritual parent to the Candidate and helps parents guide the candidate in his or her faith. The Sponsor "is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament" (Canon 892).

The role of the Confirmation Sponsor involves much more than simply standing behind the Candidate as the bishop confirms. It is the beginning or the continuation of a lasting relationship of mentoring and spiritual guidance. Sponsorship is a lifetime commitment.

- The sponsor should pray for the Candidate regularly, not only prior to Confirmation, but after Confirmation.
- The sponsor is expected to help the Candidate with his/her prayer life and encourage the Candidate to live a Catholic Christian life through prayer, celebration of the sacraments and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The sponsor is to be present at the Confirmation service to present the Candidate to the minister and stand by the Candidate to show support of their spiritual journey together.
- The Sponsor is to be a role model of Christian living for the Candidate, through daily prayer, virtue, and active participation in parish life and liturgy.
- The role of the sponsor is to journey with the candidate throughout his/her formation process and life. As such, a relationship should exist and continue both in formal gatherings at the parish and informal activities in everyday life. The Sponsor is encouraged to maintain regular contact with the Candidate.
- The sponsor is to attend the parent, sponsor, and candidate formation sessions and participate in a service project with the candidate and his/her family.
- It is recommended that the sponsor **live locally** and have a continued presence in the life of the candidate. The sponsor should be involve in the formation of the candidate both during formation sessions and through outside interaction with the candidate.
- **A Sponsor from outside the parish in which the candidate is being confirmed is to provide a letter from their pastor indicating they meet the criteria for being a sponsor. (Form provided)**

The sponsor **MUST** meet the following qualifications:

- Be designated by the one to be confirmed
- Not be a parent of the candidate
- Have the qualifications and intention of performing this role in harmony with the Faith.
- Have completed the 16th year of age
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and receives the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Most Holy Eucharist regularly
- If married, married in the Catholic Church

The Sponsor Commitment and Eligibility Form is to be submitted to lead Catechist or DRE