

Upper Room Emmaus of Richmond Application to Serve on a Team

Probably the majority of us would like to serve on an EMMAUS team, and for most, it is a wonderful experience. There are, however, factors about serving on a team that should be considered.

First, it is mathematically impossible for everyone to be selected. Each weekend, there are about twice as many new members of the EMMAUS community produced as would be required for a future team. The committee responsible for selecting the teams earnestly tries to see that everyone has a turn, but it must work within certain guidelines. One of the guidelines is that a team should have built-in experience. About two-thirds of the members should have previously served on one or more teams and a few key leaders should have been on two or more teams. All effort is also made not to have too many members from the same church. For purposes of priority in selection of applications to a team, an application for teaming is considered received on the date of receipt by the Team Selection Committee. However, if you are currently serving on an EMMAUS team, the application will be deemed to be received on the date of the next Gathering following your weekend of service.

In addition to the guidelines that the committee follows, there are factors to be considered. First, beyond the Spiritual Directors, Weekend Lay Director, Assistant Lay Director, Music Directors, Head Servant and Assistant Head Servants, team members are not selected for specific jobs. No one has the authority to promise you a particular responsibility. *Everyone must be willing to serve in whatever capacity is needed. If you accept a team assignment, you are making a commitment to be available for the weekend walk - and to be present for each team meeting before that weekend.* Availability and sacrifice of time is the real requirement.

Finally, each of us must take into account the physical and emotional strains that are sometimes encountered while serving on a team. The joy of being on a team is there, but the work and the strain are there as well. Team members are the first up in the morning and last to bed at night. Working under pressure is also routine. Everyone on the team must carry his or her full load and be ready to pick up a part of someone else's work when the unexpected happens -- and it always does. Every team member must also be ready, willing and able to share his or her faith and love with any and all others on the weekend -- literally at any time.

Just as we say that EMMAUS is not for everyone in our churches, serving on a team is not for everyone who attends an EMMAUS Weekend. Although the joy and the mountain top experiences are there, so is climbing and giving. If you decide that being a team member is not for you, there are many other areas of service in EMMAUS. You may prepare agape, sponsor pilgrims, serve on a committee or fill other important jobs that are necessary for a successful EMMAUS weekend. There is so much to be done that there is no limit to the opportunities for service. Being on a team may or may not be the best way that you can serve -- only you and God know this. If, after praying about it, your answer is "Yes", please sign below and complete the application on the reverse side and send it to RICHMOND EMMAUS at the address listed there. Serving on a team will be a blessing to you and you will be a blessing to others. You are needed!

Signature of Applicant