

2026 SDLVDC GUEST APPLICATION – PART 2 OF 2

GUIDELINES FOR GUEST SELECTION

The following guidelines are currently used by the South Dakota Lutheran Secretariat and the registrars for determining the selection of guests and the order in which registrations are accepted.

- Guests are to be **baptized members of a Christian church** who believes in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.
- All Guest must have a Sponsor from the 4th Day Community who is **willing to make a long-term commitment** to pray for and assist the Guest in their Via de Cristo walk **before, during and following the weekend**.
- Guests must be out of High School and over the age of 18 to attend.
- In the case of a married couple, it is not a requirement that both parties attend the same year, it is recommended, when possible to provide a meaningful faith building experience that may be shared as a couple.
- Guests who have recently experienced a major life crisis (such as a divorce, loss of a spouse or child, etc.) are asked to wait at least a year after the crisis to attend.
- **Attendance for the entire weekend is required. No late starts or early departures.**
- If a guest is unable to afford the entire cost of the weekend, they are encouraged to contribute a partial amount. Inform the registrars of any guests needing love gift assistance. Our desire is to ensure all who are called by the Holy Spirit to attend the weekend may do so.
- All who attend the weekend must agree to abide by infection prevention protocols that may be in place from the State of South Dakota, Swan Lake Christian Camp, or SDLVDC Secretariat at the time of the weekend.

Part 2 — COMPLETED BY SPONSOR (Please Print):

Name(s) of Sponsor(s) _____ Are you in a renewal group? _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____ CELL (_____) _____ - _____

Home (_____) _____ - _____

Information about the applicant you feel would be helpful to the leadership of this VDC weekend?

Talkative: _____ Quiet: _____ Shares: easily _____ not easily _____

☐ I have read the “**So you want to be a Sponsor!**” page 2 of this application

☐ I have prayerfully considered sponsorship of this guest and believe this Guest to be physically and emotionally stable and capable of experiencing the weekend fully. I understand my responsibilities as a Sponsor and with the Lord’s help will do my best to meet them.

Sponsor’s signature(s) _____ Date _____

Early registration helps assist with all aspects of weekend planning. A minimum of 3 men and 3 women guests must be registered by October 18th to host a weekend. Please contact Allen Abraham, Treasurer, at 605-480-2705 to allow notification to Team Leadership of your intent to attend the weekend.

Mail form (part 1 & 2) with a minimum \$50.00 deposit payable to SD Lutherna Via de Cristo to:

South Dakota Lutheran Via de Cristo

Allen Abraham, Treasurer

22841 446th Ave.

Ramona, SD 57054

Email: inthedustaba@live.com

**INCOMPLETE FORMS, OR REGISTRATIONS WITHOUT
A DEPOSIT DO NOT ALLOW TEAM LEADERSHIP TO
DETERMINE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF GUESTS
NEEDED TO HOLD A WEEKEND. PLEASE REVIEW
CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING TO TREASURER!!!**

So you want to be a Sponsor!

Romans 14:17-18 & Matthew 7:21-24

The Sponsor's purpose is to help develop and encourage spiritual growth for a weekend Guest and to support the Guest in the ongoing dedication to their life in grace. The sponsor is an example of a life lived in the grace of Christ.

Before you become a sponsor, you...

- Must have a home church and it is suggested you be in an active renewal group
- Should be prepared to stay in close contact with the new 4th Dayer for up to one year. Be sensitive to the length of time a 4th Dayer wants and may need your support
- Ask the Lord for guidance and help to enable you to carry out your responsibilities as a sponsor

You have a friend who would like to attend...

- Print out an application form from the SD Via de Cristo website, fill them out properly, and submit them following the procedures given on the form
- To avoid disappointment, never promise the Guest acceptance for a specific date. There may be a waiting list
- Take time to get better acquainted with the prospective Guest (especially if you are not well acquainted with that person)
- If there will be responsibilities or support you are not able to fulfill, find a Co-Sponsor to share this aspect

What to tell your prospective Guest...

- Tell the Guest what to expect - explain everything except the Agape Dinner, serenades and palanca
- Explain complete attendance is expected for the weekend (no leaving and returning)
- Explain start and end times of the weekend
- Explain renewal groups and other gatherings can take place following their weekend

The wait...Remember, it's God's time!

- It may be several months before your Guest is accepted - use this time to build a relationship and keep in touch regularly
- Help meet needs that may arise for their home, job, childcare, etc.

Your prospective Guest has been accepted...

- You and your Guest will each receive a letter of acceptance from the weekend rector 3-6 weeks before the weekend
- Inform your church 4th Day community and/or pastor that the guest has been accepted
- Contact friends and family of the Guest who are 4th Dayers, inform them of the weekend and request written palanca
- Arrange for church and personal palanca from your Ultreya group
- Make transportation arrangements with your Guest. Make every effort to work out any pressing concerns your Guest may have before they go on the weekend to free them from outside concerns
- Check with your Guest a day or two before to answer any last minute questions and to give encouragement

Remember Palanca

- Palanca means sacrificial giving or prayer
- Helping set up or clean up for the weekend is appreciated by all
- Material palanca may be delivered to the mailroom on Thursday night
- Group palanca is delivered during the weekend
- Personal palanca should be well labeled, and will be distributed by the mailroom staff

The Weekend Arrives...

- Write palanca letters to your Guest, label them clearly as Sponsor Day 1, Day 2, Day 3
- Provide transportation to and from the weekend for your Guest, ensuring they have a dinner meal prior to arrival
- Upon arrival, help them get settled and comfortable, introduce them to people you may know, and stay only briefly

The Weekend Progresses...

- Contact the Guest's family on Friday and Saturday to help with any emergencies that may arise
- Be sure a non-attending spouse knows how to contact you if they must get in touch with their spouse.
- Help arrange child care if a non-attending spouse is already 4th day, so they can attend the closing..
- Sponsors must attend the Sunday closing service.
- Be sensitive to the Guest's needs at the closing and reception. Some are in a hurry to go home, some just want to talk

Following Up and Following Through...

- Help the new 4th Dayer become an integral part of their church and the 4th Day community
- Contact your new 4th Dayer in person the week after the weekend as they are still sorting out thoughts about the weekend.
- Encourage the new 4th Dayer to be a part of a renewal group – you could even shepherd a new group to get it started
- Bring the new 4th Dayer to the Grand Ultreya following the weekend and other Ultreyas over the course of the year.
- Encourage your new 4th dayer to serve on Team for the next weekend.

Pray for God's guidance and the Spirit's power in your sponsoring experience!