

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A SPONSOR

The role of “sponsor” is not a special token of family relationship or friendship. A sponsor must be actively practicing the Catholic Faith by personal prayer and weekly Mass attendance and formally registered in their parish. They must already have been confirmed themselves and living their life according to the precepts and teachings of the Catholic Church. They must be someone who is willing to be with their candidate to share faith experiences during the time of preparation as well as after Confirmation.

A sponsor should be someone who understands their candidate; someone who can talk easily with their candidate and confide and share their faith with their candidate; someone who will encourage and support their candidate during this time of preparation and throughout their life.

It is important to select a sponsor as soon as possible so that they may be with their candidate to guide and participate in their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to demonstrate to the candidate the place of the Gospel in their own life and give public testimony for them.

A qualified sponsor must fulfill the following criteria:

1. Be a person of the Catholic faith.
2. Cannot be a parent of the candidate being confirmed.
3. Cannot be a couple, unless they are also baptismal sponsors.
4. Be at least 16 years of age and confirmed themselves.
5. Be an officially registered, active member of their parish faith community. (Some parishes require a 6-month waiting period before they are officially registered.)  
*Don't assume that they are officially registered; make sure that they check with their parish!*
6. If married, the sponsor must be married by the Catholic Church. Cannot be cohabitating with a member of the opposite or same sex.
7. Be willing to attend monthly sponsor/candidate sessions and participate in other activities with their candidate throughout the Confirmation Year 2 process.
8. Must keep track of their candidate's ministry and community service hours.
9. Be willing to meet periodically with their candidate to share their faith and discuss problems with their candidate.
10. Be willing to make the journey of faith, and establish a lifelong relationship with their candidate.
11. Provide a “sponsor certificate” from their parish by January 2023.
12. Sign a contract indicating that they will abide by all of the criteria stated above.