

TIPS FOR SPONSORS

Pray: Pray for your candidate every day by name. And ask others to pray for your meetings too. The Holy Spirit is the one who can lead us to Christ and convert our hearts – let Him do the heavy lifting!

Schedule Your Meetings

- When to Meet: To keep momentum, try meeting every two weeks.
- Where to Meet: Meet in a public place, like a coffee shop or library, or schedule a time to meet at Christ King through Sarah. You may also meet at the candidate's home if a parent is home. Unless you are related, you should not be meeting in a home with no other adults around, per Archdiocesan safe environment standards.

Prepare

- Pray for your upcoming meeting and any particular needs your candidate has or anything that you anticipate will come up.
- Read through the session and take notes about any thoughts and experiences you want to share, and anything else that will help the session flow.
- Go with your gut. You know your candidate well and the Holy Spirit will work through you. Find ways to make this more relatable to them and tweak the session to fit your conversation and your candidate's needs.
- Resources: if you or your candidate has questions about the Catholic faith, look here:
 - Catechism – online or check the topical index.
 - Catholic Answers – catholic.com
 - Ascension Presents – Fr. Mike Schmitz videos
 - Watch for summary intro-videos that will help prep you for each session.
 - Ask your coach!

Leading the Sessions

- Show that this is important to you. Your candidate will typically mirror your excitement and seriousness. If this is a priority for you, they will pick up on that and it will help them take it seriously too.
- Participate and share your story too. When you're willing to be honest and vulnerable, they will too. Answer the discussion questions, complete the pre-work and follow up work too!
- Mentor them. Offer encouragement, but don't be afraid to challenge them a bit, too.
- Be patient – trust that God will work through you, whether you see the fruit today or not.
- Expect the Holy Spirit to show up. Ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit (pg. 59).

Lean on Your Confirmation Coach: You've been assigned an experienced youth ministry leader to help you through this process. They'll check in with you every few weeks, but you can reach out to them with any questions, challenges, prayer requests, or anything else!

Enjoy: this is for you too, let's see what God has in store for you both!

USING THE HANDBOOK

The sponsor and candidate will walk through 6 sessions together.

Before You Meet:

- Pray for your upcoming meeting and any particular needs your candidate has or anything that you anticipate will come up.
- Watch the Sponsor Intro Video (*3-5 min*): Each session has a short video for the sponsor only, which introduces you to the topic of the week and includes some additional resources and tips for your session. Use if it is helpful to you!
- Read through the session and take notes about any thoughts and experiences you want to share, and anything else that will help the session flow.
- Go with your gut. You know your candidate well and the Holy Spirit will work through you. Find ways to make this more relatable to them and tweak the session to fit your conversation and your candidate's needs.

Each session is set up as follows:

- **Set Up** (*5-8 min*): this short section sets the tone for the meeting. It includes a few questions to ponder and should be completed before you get together.
- **Meet Up** (*≈60-75 min*): This is a prayer and discussion guide for your candidate/sponsor session. Some may need more or less time.
 - **Connect** (*10-15 min*): Each session begins with time to reconnect. This includes catching up on each others' lives, opening in prayer, and following up from the last session.
 - **Dig In** (*35-45 min*): This section provides a paragraph of information followed by a few discussion questions. It works best to take turns reading the paragraphs out loud, or looking up the scripture or catechism passages. You should both answer the discussion questions.
 - **Commit** (*10-15 min*): End the session with prayer, commit to the follow up challenge, and schedule your next session.
- **Follow Up**: this is an activity, reflection, or challenge to complete after your meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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My Confirmation Coach: This person will reach out to you!