**The ABC’s of Background Volunteering**

Welcome!

Welcome to background, and thank you for your interest in being the hands and feet of Christ. Working in background, you will be surprised at how much you will be blessed. You will meet new people from different churches all over the New River Valley and beyond that you never would have had the opportunity to meet. We are truly ONE CHURCH. You will develop friendships that will carry through the rest of your life. You will meet people that you don’t know right now, that will be there for you at times of trouble, sorrow, joy and celebrating in your future. You will be part of our Emmaus FAMILY. Most of all the Background volunteers help give the walk Pilgrims a taste of God’s gracious love.

**Background Leadership**:

Helpful manuals exist for each background so that volunteers can make sure they are doing all the right stuff for their area. Each background area has a **Lead Background** person who has a lot of experience working in the background and is responsible for “getting the job done” by either jumping in or doing it themselves, or delegating tasks to other volunteers on hand.

Background Service Areas:

* **Setup/Camp Cleanup:** Usually the Saturday or Tuesday before the walk begins, depending on the availability of the camp. Volunteers help unpack the Emmaus storage shed located on the campground and deliver the supplies (usually by truck or cart) to the different areas. Then the items are unpacked and **setup**. **Camp cleanup** makes sure that the camp is clean and ready for pilgrims following a checklist. The camp does some pre-conference clean up, but we make sure everything is spiffy before the weekend begins.
* **Pilgrim Sendoff:** Community members bring snacks and drinks for sendoff on Thursday evening.
* **Meal Desserts:** Starting Friday afternoon each lunch and dinner includes dessert. These desserts are provided by reunion groups and individuals as an act of agape. Quantity needed: at least 65 servings. Usually a reunion will do this so that it is distributed over several people; groups or individuals are invited to sponsor a meal’s dessert.
* **Luggage, Registration, Bed Making:**
* **Luggage:** Greet pilgrims and sponsors at parking lot and take their luggage to their dorm room
* **Registration:** Registrar checks pilgrims in, and sponsor takes pilgrim to assigned room. Pilgrim does not make bed!
* **Bedmaking:** Once pilgrims are in classroom after send off, we make the beds in the dorm and cabins.
* **Sponsor’s hour:**  Sponsor and others who wish to pray over each pilgrim by holding the pilgrim’s cross. Sponsors who are not able to attend Sponsor’s Hour are asked to designate a person to stand in for them.
* **Kitchen:** Kitchen supplies are unpacked and setup during Setup/cleanup. Volunteers are needed for cooking and serving each meal. See schedule below for helping with kitchen background.
* **Agape:** Includes distribution of agape in dorm rooms, conference room, dining room throughout the weekend as well as preparing Fourth Day packets, special letters, sidewalk chalk art, etc. This is a great area for new volunteers to help out. Volunteers throughout the weekend are needed and welcome!
* **Snack Agape:** Includes setting up and breaking down snack agape throughout the weekend. The Snack Agape lead is creative and decides what goes out when. Like everything else on the walk it starts out slow, and builds as the weekend goes on. Snack Agape volunteers may also help by providing snacks.
* **Worship:** The chapel (near classroom) undergoes different altar set ups during the weekend. Also, altars are set up for candlelight and closing in the canteen.
* **Candlelight:** Set up luminaria and hand-held candles for community; participate in candlelight singing for pilgrims.
* **Cleanup:** Sunday afternoon breakdown of background areas, bedding packed for pilgrims/team and brought to dining room; after closing, all areas of the campground are cleaned and made ready for the next weekend.

**How to help the Leaders:** Especiallybefore Candlelight and Closing a lot of work needs to be done to end each day and get ready for the next, so please check with the background leads to offer your help before heading to these special community events.

Things to Know & Remember:

1. **We serve anonymously and behind the scenes!** Please pay attention to the background schedule to avoid being out while pilgrims are out and about. Parking: upper end of the dormitory building or along the street at the lower end of the canteen. If you are loading or unloading heavy items you may park behind the buildings.
2. **Childcare.** NRV Emmaus provides childcare during Candlelight and Closing. If you bring your children to the campground at other times please keep them with you at all times.
3. **Background Devotions and Communion:** Every morning devotions take place for background volunteers in the dining room after breakfast. The Lord’s Table is set and communion is served by clergy every day of the walk for both the classroom and the background during Sponsor’s hour, after dinner on Friday in dining room, at Candlelight, and Closing.
4. **We are here for our background team.**  Throughout the walk, members of the board, the background coordinators and the Leads are here to welcome you and help you find your way. PLEASE DO NOT hesitate to seek one of them to help you in any way. If you don’t know who they are ask anyone around you. We have all at one point been new to this community.

**Background / Community Schedule for Walk Weekends**

**Thursday Night Send off  -** 6:30pm for luggage, registration, snacks for send off; Send off at 7:00 pm

**Daily Meals  -** Breakfast 8:00-8:45 am; Lunch 12:30-1:25 pm (Sunday 12:00-1:15 pm); Dinner 5:30-6:30 pm
**Saturday Gathering  -** 7:30-10:15 pm
**Sunday Gathering  -** 3:45 pm
**Closing  -**4:30 pm