

Sponsor's Role, Responsibilities and Selection

The Sponsor is an important part of a Confirmation Candidate's preparation process, and so they must be able to fulfill several requirements.

- ❖ Our Diocese requires that the Sponsor be an active practicing Catholic, who
 - is at least 16 years of age
 - received the Sacrament of Confirmation
 - is not a parent of the Candidate
 - if married, is married in the Church.
 - The Church recognizes a person cannot share a faith that is not part of their life.
- ❖ It is important that a Sponsor be more mature, more informed, and more experienced in their faith journey and culture than the candidate is. The Sponsor must be willing to share their faith with the Candidate.
- ❖ The Sponsor should be a person who already has a trusting relationship of some sort with the Candidate, such as an older friend or relative (not a parent) in whom the Candidate can confide.
- ❖ It is recommended that the Sponsor be an older person who has some experience with his or her faith, and a clearer perspective from which to speak.
- ❖ Prior to the celebration of Confirmation, the Sponsor must be able to meet or communicate with the Candidate on a regular basis and participate in the faith development components of the Program. Also of importance is the Sponsor's ability to make a commitment to continue the faith journey after the celebration of Confirmation.
- ❖ The Sponsor needs to be an open, honest, caring, committed, and encouraging person who will help the Candidate grow in his or her understanding of the faith as the young person comes to a deeper appreciation of God in his or her life.