

**SPONSORING GUESTS**

**WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU?**

1. Contact the “Emergency Names” on the guest application and ask them to write “palanca” letters (sample request letter below). Also, ask for the names, addresses and phone numbers of other family members and friends you can contact for the same purpose. Encourage them to contact anyone they think will be willing to write a letter of support and encouragement. Palanca letters should be returned to you or the head Palanca Cha (Judi Armstrong) for the weekend.
2. Keep in touch with the guest and make sure they receive the “things to bring list” from the Registrar (Jane Ethier). Answer any questions they may have. Encourage them and pray for them frequently.
3. Be sure to get in touch with your guest regarding getting to the camp as the weekend approaches. Confirm arrival time and make sure that they have directions to the Echo Grove Camp.
4. Greet them as they arrive at camp on Thursday.
5. Be their escort, or ask one the of the other team members, to walk with them on the luminary walk on Saturday evening.
6. If you are not part of the team, try to be at the closing ceremony Sunday afternoon. Children and families are welcome to join us that afternoon.
7. Stress staying connected with Pilgrimage starting with the 4th Day Celebration following the weekend and getting involved with a Reunion Group.

**Remember** that you are the main impression of Pilgrimage until your guest arrives at camp on Thursday.

**TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF [insert name here]**

[Date],

I am a friend of **[insert name here]** and am excited about and privileged to be sponsoring [**her/him]** for Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage #\_\_ be held at **Echo Grove Camp & Conference Center** on MONTH DAY YEAR. This renewal weekend is a time of worship and study with a group of Christian men and women from different parts of the state and from many different churches and denominations. These weekends are bathed in much love and prayer. The Holy Spirit’s presence is very much in evidence.

There are many special, but unique, things that will happen to **[insert name]** during this three day weekend, one of which is the receiving of letters, cards, notes, pictures, remembrances from those who know and love **[her/him]** . I knew you would want to be a part of sharing with **[insert name here]** what **[she/he]** has meant in your life.

The letter will be a **SURPRISE so please don’t mention the fact that I have contacted you or that you are composing a letter for [her/him] .** Please put your letter in an envelope with **[insert name]**’s name on the outside and seal it and write “family” or “friend” in the upper left-hand corner. Put this in another envelope with my name and address on the outside and mail it to my address listed below. All that you do will be **confidential and seen only by you and [insert name]**. I will see that all that you send gets to camp at the right time and is given to **[her/him] .** **I will need all of your letters returned to me by [insert date here … 2 weeks before].** If you are a couple receiving this letter, each one of you please write a note to **[insert name]**. Please remember **[insert name]** in your prayers over the next couple of weeks, and especially during her Pilgrimage weekend.

I have always enjoyed the opportunity to let people know how they have impacted my life. Now you can do this for **[insert name]** with a deadline in mind. The Pilgrimage weekend is **[insert date]**, so please call me if you have any questions. Then mail your letters in another envelope addressed to me. I will know to keep it private when I see your return address. Many thanks to you for caring enough to do this.

God’s Grace and Peace to each of you,

**[Sign it]**