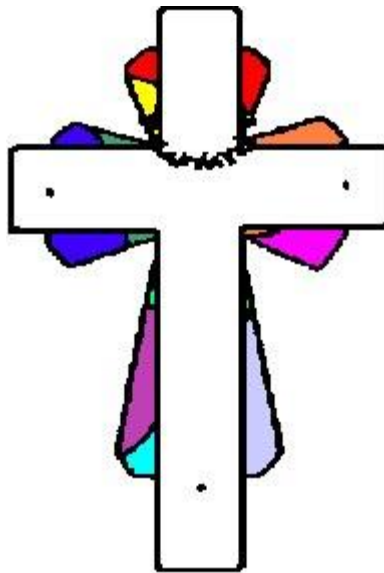


Vida Nueva

A Weekend for Teens

Responsibilities of a Sponsoring Community



August 12, 2012

<http://www.vidanueva.net/>

Vida Nueva, International

Responsibilities of a Sponsoring Community

When agreeing to sponsor and emerging Vida Nueva community, the sponsoring community must agree to the following:

1. Pray for the new community.
2. Be available for guidance, counseling, and accountability. The sponsoring Council should decide on the particular format for this. They can appoint a “New Community Coordinator” to be the focal point for communication, and/or have each Council member be available to their counterpart on the Council of the emerging community. Core documents, i.e., Statement of Faith, Essentials of the Weekend (VN Essentials), Director’s Manual, etc., will be provided by VN International. Other documents, i.e., kitchen book, local policies and practices, guidelines for qualifications, director agreements, etc., tips, lessons learned from experience, etc., should come from the sponsoring Council.

The emerging community will have agreed to abide by the VN Essentials and Statement of Faith. In cases where the sponsoring community feels this agreement is not being upheld, they should refer the issue to VN International.

3. Provision of physical materials. If at all possible, the sponsoring community should at least provide banners to the emerging community. If the sponsoring community has the ability, they should also consider financial aid, physical materials (Bibles, pelon strips, etc.) for at least the first set of weekends.
4. Team members. This has two areas. The first is to provide slots for team members, observers, and candidates on the sponsoring community’s weekends during the community formation process. The number of slots would be determined by the sponsoring community, but should be as many as possible. VN International recommends two observers, two to four regular team members.

The second area is to provide team members on the first weekends of the new community. This would be a function of advertising the new community to the existing community, giving the prospective team members the appropriate contact information in the new community. The sponsoring community would have no responsibility for transportation, housing, etc., for the team members. The Leaders members of the sponsoring Council should provide reports and insight into which team members should be selected. On the first new community weekends, as many experienced people as possible should help the new community, while giving the new team members the opportunity to learn.

5. Debriefing and follow-up. After the first new weekends, feedback should be provided to the new community and VN International about how the weekend went, and any areas that require further focus on future weekends.
6. Be flexible. New communities will usually not have a base of youth, or in some cases adults, to fill the type of team your community is used to. The current team model has 20 to 30 team slots that exist only to give the youth a chance to serve, and are not necessary for a functioning weekend. For example, the Gopher, Dorm, Kitchen, and Palanca positions do not require the number of people you are used to. It would not be unusual for someone in the kitchen to give a talk, or have the Chapel assist with Palanca, etc. It is important to differentiate between the Essentials and tradition.

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