

Appendix B

Sponsor Forms

The following forms are included:

- Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility, Duties and Responsibilities
- Confirmation Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility (signed by the **Sponsor's** pastor, must have the Parish seal)
- Candidate's Sponsor Interview: **Must include date of interview and signatures of both the sponsor and the candidate.** (If distance necessitates a telephone interview, a parent may sign as a proxy for the sponsor.)

Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility Duties & Responsibilities

The sponsor for a Confirmation candidate is meant to provide spiritual help to the candidate (Catechism 1311). He or she should be willing to serve as a strong and lasting Christian influence on the candidate. The sponsor enters into a spiritual relationship with the candidate and acts as a spiritual parent and mentor. Therefore, it is both a great blessing and a responsibility to commit to the role of a sponsor.

Each candidate may choose **only one sponsor**; it may be either a man or a woman. A sponsor takes on a life-long commitment to help their candidate persevere in the Faith. According to the Code of Canon Law (892), "The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament." The Church states that it is desirable that the sponsor would be one of the person's godparents; however, this is not a requirement (893, §2). The sponsor needs to be a registered member of a Catholic parish in order to get the Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility signed by the pastor. Moreover, a sponsor must have intellectual and physical faculties to be a sponsor.

According to Canon 874, a sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 16 years old or older
- Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist
- Must not be a parent of the one to be confirmed

This canon (874, §1, 1) also states that the sponsor must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." Therefore, the following persons are **not eligible** to act as a sponsor:

- Persons married outside the Catholic Church
- Persons who miss Sunday Mass and Holydays of Obligation and/or consider Sunday Mass and Holy days of Obligation optional
- Persons cohabiting without the benefit and grace of Catholic marriage
- Persons who neglect the religious education of their children
- Individuals who neglect to fulfill their "Easter Duty" that is, Communion at least once a year during the Easter season and Confession once a year if in the state of mortal sin
- Those who give public scandal in any way

Your sponsor should be willing and able to participate in your formation for Confirmation. Your sponsor should be someone that you trust and feel comfortable turning to for help, advice and guidance, especially in regard to your spiritual life. After you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your relationship with your sponsor DOES NOT END! You both are called to lead each other closer to God, to continue to grow in knowledge of your faith, and to challenge one another to lead lives of holiness and service.

Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church
46639 Algonkian Parkway
Potomac Falls, VA 20165
Confirmation Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility

I have been asked to be a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation for the following individual: _____

I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

I am a practicing Catholic; I attend Mass faithfully on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, fulfill my Easter duty, and live up to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

If married, I am validly married in the Catholic Church.

I am aware of the serious responsibility of being a sponsor and I promise to give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayer, and by the Christian example of my daily life.

I am 16 years of age or older.

I am a registered and participating member of the following parish:

Parish Name	Parish City & State
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Sponsor's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Printed Name: _____

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the above-mentioned person is eligible to be a sponsor.

Pastor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARISH SEAL (must be present):

Candidate's Sponsor Interview

Instructions:

- **The Confirmation Candidate is required to interview the sponsor. This can be done in-person or over the phone. The purpose is to begin a personal conversation between candidate and sponsor regarding living the faith.**
- **Answers are to be handwritten by the student on a separate piece of paper.**
- **Be sure to get specific answers, not "yes" or "no" responses.**

Candidate Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date of Interview: _____

Interview Questions:

1. How do you pray?
2. Who has been influential in the growth of your Faith?
3. Have you ever had to defend your Faith? When? How?
4. Are you active in your Church? How?
5. What do you find to be the most rewarding part of your Faith?
6. Do you participate in community service? What kind?
7. Have you sponsored anyone else: Who and why? How have you helped them? (Be specific)
8. Do you have any childhood memories of your Faith, Church, or Catholic Holidays? What are some of them?
9. What Catholic devotions have helped you pull through the tough times in your life?
10. What do you find to be the most rewarding part of Mass?
11. Is there anything that you don't understand or have a difficult time accepting concerning matters of faith? What and why?
12. How do you see God working in your (the Sponsor's) life?
13. How do you see God working in "my" (the Candidate's) life?