

1) Agape - I hope you have had a chance to get a lot of agape requests out to friends and family of your caterpillar. If you haven't, you need to **get requests out right away so the writers have time to respond**. You should receive a sample letter in the mail. If you have not, or if you'd like to have an electronic version, I have included the one I use below and have **attached it as a Word document**. Because some agape writers don't get around to writing soon enough, you will want to send out as many requests as you can. Think of people your caterpillar knows from school (students, teachers, coaches, teammates), people from church (past Sunday school teachers, members of the youth group, people who have attended Emmaus or Chrysalis), family (parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins), close friends (best friends through the years, girlfriend), others (scout leaders, teammates, coaches, people with whom they work). While its great to find people who will write a quick note (high school friends), you want to be sure to get to people who will write something very meaningful. If you are not your caterpillar's parent, please be sure to get addresses from his parents (you will probably want to share the attached parent information with them). For many people, e-mail addresses are as good as or better than physical addresses and, with only a short time to go, a request by e-mail gives the writer the most time to respond.

2) Special Agape - I also try to **come up with 6-10 people who will write agape that will blow him away**; people from whom he would never expect a letter. This might be someone he really looked up to when he was younger, a former best friend who moved away or a favorite teacher from the past. I know it seems like it's a little late to track these people down, but, believe me, it's worth it. Again, ask his parents to help you come up with these contacts.

3) Agape Delivery - Make it easy for people to get agape delivered. The parents can help collect letters and get them to you. At our church, we take note cards and pens to the high school and adult Sunday school classes on the Sunday morning of the flight. Let agape writers send an e-mail message to you that you can print (I like to change the font on each one unless they already chose something other than a standard font) and put in an envelope in case they procrastinate too long to write a real letter. If you're having a hard time getting the really important letters, offer to pick them up. And **don't be afraid to really bug people**. It's well worth it. Follow up if possible on the letters you've sent out to see if they've sent something in. Our goal should be that no extra agape will have to be written at Candlelight.

4) Gifts - A lot of sponsors like to give their caterpillar a gift (a CD or a book) at the end of the weekend. It's a great idea, but please don't leave the gift at the church as agape. We are not equipped to deal with large gifts and even small gifts can create an awkward situation for other caterpillars. **The best time to give a special gift is on the way home**.

5) Candlelight - Remember your Candlelight? It's an impressive evening. Not only is bigger better, but it also needs to be filled with people the caterpillars know. Please don't assume that all Emmaus and Chrysalis people are aware of when Candlelight is. **Please do everything you can to invite and encourage everyone your caterpillar knows who has been through Emmaus or Chrysalis to be there**. Offer rides and put together carpools when necessary. Remember that Chrysalis Candlelight is on Sunday evening (February 14) at 8:00. Candlelight is obviously held regardless of the weather. So, if the weathers bad, find a four wheel drive vehicle and car pool in. (Only people directly involved with the flight can stay overnight at the church. So, even if the weathers bad, you'll still need to leave the church after Candlelight. Be prepared to drive back home or stay somewhere else in Portsmouth.) Please park in the lot across the street from the church. The spaces close to the church are reserved for those with special needs. Tell people not to park in the lot next to the church. If you wish to chat after Candlelight, please do so under the carport; not in the narthex (lobby) and not in the lot next to the sanctuary.

6) Closing - I didn't know this one when I first got involved with Chrysalis: Closing is open to family members even if they have not been through Chrysalis or Emmaus. In fact, **its very important that at least one parent be there for closing if at all possible**. Please make sure the parents know this and offer to help them arrange a ride if necessary. It is a work day, so be understanding if they just cant make it. If you cant make it either, make sure someone is there as a substitute sponsor to get them home. We will take communion at Closing. As usual, it will start from the back. When you go up, you will be asked to have your caterpillar join you so you can take communion together. If the parents are there, you should invite them to go up with you (or jump out and join them if they go up before you do). Siblings are welcome, even if they are likely to attend a flight in the next year or two. Even if they remember all about Closing (and most won't), it still won't ruin the weekend. Closing is also open to anyone who has been to Chrysalis or Emmaus, so please invite and encourage friends of the caterpillar who have been to Chrysalis or Emmaus to join you. Closing is at 4:00 on Monday, February 15. You may want to come at 3:45 just to be sure you don't miss the triumphal entry. Speaking of triumphal entries, when you arrive for Closing, please go directly to the Sanctuary just like you do for Candlelight. The butterflies will do their commissioning service elsewhere in the church and will then be led into the sanctuary for closing (again, much like Candlelight). As they walk in, we will ask you to sing When the Saints Come Marching In.

7) Saturday Morning - Please remember that you need to have your caterpillar there **between 8:00 and 8:15 on Saturday morning**. Please drop them off at the carport of the church. Registration is at the table inside the main doors. There is no option to postpone a Chrysalis weekend, so we will have the flight even if the weather is bad. Please pray for good weather. And then think about what you can do to get your caterpillar to Cornerstone Church if the forecast is for bad weather. If you know someone who lives in the Portsmouth area, you might make arrangements to stay there on Friday night. Or you may want to arrange to have someone with a four-wheel-drive carpool you there. If you are a youth, remember that parents are very hesitant to have their children ride with another teen in bad weather, even if you have a four-wheel drive vehicle. So, be prepared to have an adult drive you if the weather's bad and be prepared to have that adult communicate with your caterpillar's parents. There is a sponsors' hour after the caterpillars go to the conference room. Please plan to be there or have a substitute sponsor there. However, if the weather's bad and there's limited space in a vehicle to Portsmouth, remember that it's more important that all caterpillars make it there than the sponsors make it there. We'll understand if you can't be there. Please feel free to call me at 740-703-8289 if you need help finding a ride for your caterpillar.

8) Communication - It is important that you keep in touch with your caterpillar between now and the flight. **A lack of communication about the flight can cause caterpillars to have cold feet**. Be willing to answer any questions, but do so in a manner that doesn't diminish any of the big events. Please remind them of key things to bring. The most forgotten items are usually sleeping bags, pillows, shower stuff or towels. Remind them not to bring a watch, cell phone, camera, game device (Gameboy, PS2, etc.), iPad, iPod or other music player. I will send a last minute reminder in the week before the flight. Be sure to check your e-mail on Wednesday or Thursday.

9) Dress Clothes - Please remind them that **they are to bring a set of dress clothes for a nice dinner**. It doesn't have to be formal (suits and ties are not required, but are welcomed). The pants should be something nicer than jeans, the shirt should have a collar and the shoes should be nicer than tennis shoes (they can be borrowed if your caterpillar doesn't own dress up shoes).

10) Backing Out - While we hope that none of our caterpillars back out of this flight, it is important that we know about it right away if they just cant be there. We expect to have a full flight (all slots filled). If we don't find out about drops until Saturday morning, someone else may miss out. Likewise, please let me know if there is anything we can do to help alleviate concerns that may be causing your caterpillar to want to back out. **Let them know that a lot of people (team members, cooks, etc.) are counting on them being there**.

11) Team Members - If you are a member of this team, please be sure to find a substitute sponsor to get your caterpillar to the church, to pray for him at Sponsors Hour and to be at Candlelight. In the rush of getting ready for the weekend, don't forget your caterpillar. Be sure he knows who's taking him on Saturday, etc.

12) Pray - Now is the time for lots of prayer. Please pray for your caterpillar and this flight every day. Pray with all your heart. Believe firmly in what you're asking God to do. Pray for Gods guidance in your sponsorship. Pray for the team (a list of team members will be posted at www.sochrysalis.com -- click to the appropriate team list page). Pray for the Holy Spirits leading as our LD, Jerry Kunz, puts tables together and makes other key decisions for the weekend. Pray that everyone involved in the weekend remains healthy. Pray for the other caterpillars (you can find them at <http://sochrysalis.com/chrysalis.lists.boys/chrysalis.lists.b36.html> -- or just go to www.sochrysalis.com and click to the appropriate pages). Pray for the weather. Pray that God will move in a mighty way this weekend. **Pray, pray, pray!**

13) Prayer Vigil - If you haven't signed up for a prayer vigil slot, please do so. **It is important that each caterpillar see his sponsors name on the chart**. To sign up for a slot, visit <http://sochrysalis.com/chrysalis.lists.boys/prayerlist.b36.html>. An e-mail confirmation will be sent to you.

14) Parents - I've attached (and pasted) a letter you can modify and give or send to your caterpillar's parents to request their help. I hope it helps.

Thanks for putting up with this long e-mail. I'm sure I've not covered everything. Please don't hesitate to contact me by replying to this message or calling/texting me on my mobile phone (740-703-8289) any time. We really appreciate the important role you play in making this an incredible weekend for all of the caterpillars. You are truly an instrument of Grace. Please know that we are praying for you, as well.