

## Camp Sponsors Program

Playa Pete's has an enviable practice of being open to all comers. Some of our favorite people started out as strangers, and we want to continue to be a welcoming home for virgins. To do that, we have made the sponsorship program explicit, rather than just assumed.

Every camper has a sponsor. Their sponsor is responsible for them and for training them in the ways of Burning Man. If there is a problem with a newbie, their sponsor helps them through it.

If you are a sponsor, you are responsible for your camper. You will vouch for their character. You will make sure they understand and abide by [the 10 principles](#). You will help them to prepare for the desert, and will keep an eye on them on playa to help them through any rough patches in their journey. You will be their guide, and you will be accountable for their actions.

If you're a new person, and excited about being a good camper, you can turn to your sponsor for guidance and support. You'll know that if they don't have answers to your questions, they will know someone who will, and will be eager to learn new things through your eyes. You will be accountable to your sponsor, and, through them, to the camp, because you want to do right by both your old friends and your new.

This is pretty much how we've been doing it, and it's been working pretty well. Everyone looks out for everyone else, and we all sort of train up together. Giving sponsorship a name and a structure makes it easier to make adjustments to behavior, when people honestly don't know that what they're doing isn't OK.

I was a new person once, brought in by the multi-talented Joe. This year, I'm bringing in a few friends of mine. My dedication to the event, the ship, and the camp will translate into my working to make sure they don't fuck it up for me or for anyone else. But if I slip up, or if my friends make mistakes, I ask that the camp help me be a better sponsor for my friends, and a better member of the camp.

Do not recommend your friends to Playa Pete's Plaza lightly. You will be held responsible for their actions.

For example:

If Crawford is an ugly drunk, and talking to him does no good, or if you just don't want to deal with it, please come to me.

If Jenni seems to disappear every time there's work to be done, and you're uncomfortable talking to her about it, please come to me.

If I stumble into camp, fresh from Costume Kult, trailing sequins and fur wherever I go, and you're too afraid to speak to me, go find Joe, as he's the one who brought me in.

And when I start hearing stories about Graham pooping in people's tents, but no one wants to say anything to him because they're not sure if they should or not, I'm going straight to Greg. I'll say to him: Greg, I've had a lot of complaints about Graham pooping in people's tents. But because it's Graham, and because it's Burning Man, no one feels they have the right to say anything to him. Could you maybe talk to him, please, and ask him to tone it down, or take it elsewhere? He's making a lot of people uncomfortable. Thanks.