

GUIDELINES FOR MEAL SERVERS

As our Great Banquet community continues to grow, many new folks are helping to serve meals. So for the newer folks, and the “oldtimers”, too, please read the following suggestions that have been offered for those who volunteer to serve meals.

1. **Spouses of guests:**

We ask that you PLEASE do not sign up to serve a meal. The first time your spouse should see you is at the candlelight on Saturday night.

2. **Sponsors:**

You are such an important part of your guest's weekend. Please prayerfully consider if Saturday night's candlelight should be the first time they see your face.

3. **Eight is enough:**

Six to eight people are enough to efficiently serve a meal. If you have a large group that wants to serve, please limit the number in the dining room to 8. If more people than that show up – great! Please have the “overflow” go over to the Agape Chapel and spend that time in prayer for the team and guests. The Agape Chapel is usually empty at the dining hour, and your time spent in prayer would be a wonderful act of agape. You might even like to mention that in an agape letter.

4. **Table Agape:**

Remember those wonderful little gifts you found at your table? These gifts come from the community. If you don't bring the candy, pins, decorative placemats, napkins, centerpieces, etc., they won't be there for the guests to enjoy.

5. **Set Up:**

Servers need to arrive in the dining room at least half an hour before mealtime to set the tables. The East Bay kitchen staff is very helpful if you have any questions.

6. **Clean Up:**

Servers are responsible to see that dishes are scraped, stacked, and racked, and all tables have been wiped off and chairs pushed back under the tables.

If you are serving a meal that includes dessert, please remove the meal plate and replace it with the dessert – just remember to make sure they are finished before you do so. PLEASE do not start clearing tables until the team and guests have left the dining room. (It can be a little disconcerting if you are in the middle of a conversation and someone starts whisking plates out from under your nose.)

7. **This is the Guests' weekend:**

Please refrain as much as possible from joining into conversations with team members and guests. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do not identify team members!! Mealtimes are important times of bonding for those participating in the weekend. As servers, we need to be as INCONSPICUOUS as possible. You know the qualities of a good server – helpful, but not a nuisance.

8. **Please only sign up to serve if you have taken a Great Banquet, Walk to Emmaus, Cursillo, Chrysalis, TEC, or comparable 3-day retreat such as Via De Christo.** While there are no secrets about these weekends, we do not want to take away from a potential, future guest's experience.

WEEKEND MEALTIME SCHEDULE

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Breakfast	8:00 Arrive by 7:30	8:00 Arrive by 7:30	8:00 Arrive by 7:30
Lunch	12:30 Arrive by noon	12:30 Arrive by noon	12:00 Arrive by 11:30
Dinner	5:30 Arrive by 5:00	5:30 Arrive by 5:00	

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please call me at:

Home: (309) 378-4602

Work: (309) 766-3461

In Christ's love,

Lynn Fletcher