



Ecuador 2025

June 18-June 29

Informational Packet

STUDENT ECUADOR MISSION TRIP

COMMITMENT DATES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30th	APPLICATION DEADLINE Get deposit checks to Beth @Keslinger Campus
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th	TEAM MEETING 7:00-8:30PM, Keslinger Campus Pick up trip packets, support letter supplies and SMA jobs DEPOSITS AND ALL PAPERWORK DUE
SUNDAY, MARCH 9th	STUDENT MISSIONS AUCTION , Keslinger Campus Students are required to attend the evening event, and need to be will serve in their assigned role at a specific time between 12-8PM
TUESDAY, MARCH 18th	TEAM MEETING 7:00-8:30PM, Keslinger Campus COMPLETED SUPPORT LETTERS DUE
TUESDAY, APRIL 15th	TEAM MEETING 7:00-8:30PM, Keslinger Campus
TUESDAY, MAY 6th	TEAM MEETING 7:00-8:30PM, Keslinger Campus ECUADOR TEAM ONLY
SATURDAY MAY 3rd, 17th	TEAM SERVE DAYS Each student commits to one date. Times/locations/details TBD
THURSDAY, MAY 22nd	FINAL TRIP BALANCE DUE Remaining student balance will be communicated ahead of time
SAT/SUN, EARLY JUNE, TBD	TEAM DEDICATION WEEKEND Students hand out prayer cards after one service
TUESDAY, JUNE 17th	PACKING NIGHT 5:00-6:00PM, Student Center
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18th	TEAM DEPARTS!
SUNDAY, JUNE 29th	TEAM RETURNS!

Mission Trip Involvement

Student Missions experiences are more than just a trip to serve others, but an integral piece of the Biblical community we strive to create within our student ministry program. For this reason, high school short-term mission trips are intentionally designed for students actively involved in Chapelstreet Students small group ministry (Axis for current 8th grade students, D-Group for current 9th-12th grade students). At Chapelstreet Church we believe the following regarding High School Short-Term Mission trips:

- **Small Group Involvement:** Active involvement in Axis/D-Group means students have gathered together regularly in community, have studied Scripture & been taught what the Bible says, and have been held accountable in their faith by peers and adult leaders. Though discipleship isn't always clear cut & simple, Chapelstreet Students believes students who have sought this type of discipleship are best prepared to enter the mission field and share the elementary truths of the Gospel with others.
- **Being Known:** We believe that in order to best shepherd & lead these mission trips, students participating must be *known*. With hundreds of students involved at Chapelstreet, the best way to know each student who joins a mission team is if they have been faithfully disciplined by a trained & devoted Chapelstreet Students small group leader. It's important to know who is being sent out to share the Gospel with our mission partners, and we will trust our volunteer small group leaders & their discretion to help decide if students are ready for a mission trip.
- **Other Involvement at Chapelstreet:** Students who are actively involved and/or serving at Chapelstreet Church, but not currently involved in Chapelstreet Students small group ministry may be considered for a missions team. For students who fall into this category, we ask that they provide a reference from a Chapelstreet Church staff member or volunteer who knows them and can speak to their readiness to participate in a mission trip. We would ask these students to intentionally get involved within Chapelstreet Students small group ministry.
- **International Trips:** In order to join an International mission team, students must have previously been on a Chapelstreet Students mission trip & be actively involved at Chapelstreet Church.
- **Not actively involved at Chapelstreet?** If you have any questions about your current level of involvement or how to get further involved in Chapelstreet Student ministry, please email Beth bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com or Jay jsias@chapelstreetchurch.com.

Trip Logistics and Requirements

- **Application and Trip Cost**

\$2500 (Deposit of \$1075 and support raised to help cover the balance)

Trip application link and all additional required forms are available at chapelstreet.church/ecuador.

Application deadline is Thursday, January 30th.

- **Scholarships**

Scholarships for student trips are always available! Do not let cost be a barrier that prevents your student from applying to join this team. The scholarship application can be found at

chapelstreet.church/ecuador.

- **Passport**

If you do not hold a current US Passport, you will need to apply for one **ASAP!!** Passport applications are available at a US Post Office, Kane County Government Center, or online at www.travel.state.gov.

***Ecuador requires that visitors' passports are valid for at least 6 months AFTER your travel dates!**

- **Paperwork and Deposit**

All paperwork and the deposit must be turned in by the 1st Team Meeting. Required paperwork includes: Chapelstreet Student Participation Waiver (notarized), Chapelstreet Student Medication form (if applicable), One Collective Medical Proxy and Travel Consent (notarized), One Collective Criminal History Verification, One Collective Waiver (notarized), 3 colored copies of your passport and 1 copy of your insurance card. **The deadline to get everything turned in is Tuesday, February 18th.**

- **Support Letters**

We require that each student and leader send 30 support letters to help raise their trip cost balance. Those who choose to pay for the whole trip without raising support will need to send 20 prayer support letters. Supplies will be handed out at the 1st meeting, and completed letters need to be turned in by the 2nd meeting. **Letters are due by Tuesday, March 18th and will be mailed from church.**

- **Student Missions Auction**

Each student will have a job at the Student Missions Auction in order for the event to be a success.

Roles will be handed out at the 1st Team Meeting

- **Attend All Team Commitments**

There will be 4 Team Meetings, 1 Team Serve Day, Student Missions Auction and a Team Dedication Day leading up to our trip. Each of these commitments provide the training and team building opportunities that are essential for our group to work together as a team in Ecuador. We ask that you commit to participating in each one of these commitments. If, for some reason you are unable to attend one of the dates, it's required that you notify Beth bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com beforehand. Students are not allowed to miss more than 2 of these commitments as part of this team.

Support Letters

Each team member is asked to create a support team of 30 people to whom they will send a support letter. The purpose of the support letter is to invite people to be a part of your experience through excitement, prayer, and financial support when possible.

What should I include in my support letters?

- The name/location of the trip and the dates. (Quito, Ecuador June 18-29)
- Purpose of the trip and a brief description of the service opportunities while there (light construction, Vacation Bible School, and jungle adventure)
- Reason you have chosen to go and the ways you are praying for God to move throughout the trip.
- Invitation for them to join your support team through prayer and a financial donation if possible (You can specify the amount you need to raise, and any financial support beyond that will be applied to the team.)
- Gratitude for their interest, support, and prayer.

Who should you send letters to?

- Family members
- Teachers, school counselors, coaches
- Community organizations (especially any that your parents may belong to)
- Organization leaders at school (Key Club, etc.)

What if my family chooses to pay the remaining trip balance on our own?

If you have already paid for your trip in full, we ask that you send out 20 prayer letters (rather than 30 support letters). Your letter can look similar in nature - but your focus should be an emphasis on asking them to support you in prayer. So, the support letter process will look the same, but you can adjust the wording to reflect your request - and you won't need to include a return envelope for them.

When are my support letters due?

We will have the envelopes and labels for your letters available for you to pick up at the first Team Meeting Campus on February 18th. Letters will be mailed from church and we ask that all letters be turned in to Beth **NO LATER than Tuesday, March 18th** so we have as much as time as possible to receive funding for the trip.

Sample Prayer Letter

Use this as a guide, but make it personal!

Dear friends and family,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting opportunity that I have to join other highschoolers from my church on a mission trip this summer. We are traveling to Quito, Ecuador from June 18th-29th. Our time will be split between construction projects at El Refugio youth camp, a jungle excursion and VBS with the local children. We will be doing different kinds of work, building relationships, and experiencing God's creation in new ways. Our church has sent teams to serve in Ecuador for over 2 decades!

I am excited to be a part of the Ecuador team because I know that God loves these people and wants us to reach out beyond our normal comfort zone to extend His love to those in need. I also believe that as much as I have to offer the people of Ecuador, I have much more to learn from the experience of serving them. I am looking forward to serving God and learning by experience at the same time!

I would like to invite you to be a part of my support team leading up to and during our time in Ecuador. Would you be willing to pray for me, for our team, and for the people we are going to be serving? Please pray that God would prepare hearts and cover all of the details going into this trip, and that his love would be seen through our service in Ecuador. I also need to raise the remaining \$1425 for this trip, and if you are able to give a financial contribution I would be very grateful. You can donate online by using my URL link at the bottom of this letter. This is the easiest way to donate. However, if you would like to mail a check, please use the enclosed donation slip with my URL link.

Thank you so much. I look forward to telling you about my experiences on this trip and about the many ways that I saw God working!

*Sincerely,
(Sign your name, then type it underneath for legibility)*

**** IF YOU ARE RAISING SUPPORT, TYPE THE ENTIRE URL CAREFULLY FROM YOUR DONATION SLIPS. CHECK FOR ACCURACY SO DONATIONS AREN'T DELAYED ****

Ecuador Packing List

Carry-On Bag: Backpack recommended! (maximum weight = 25lbs)

- Passport
- Clothing and basic toiletries for 2 days (in case your luggage does not arrive)
- Prescription medication (plus additional 2 wks in case of quarantine)
**must be in the original bottles with dosage*
- Dramamine (all students must bring)
- Bible, journal, pen
- Money (for spending in airports, souvenirs, etc. - most students bring around \$100 US)
- Items of value (They are safer in your carry-on than checked luggage.)

Suitcase: (maximum weight = 50 pounds, maximum size = 62in)

- Underwear: 11, one per day– no access to laundry facilities
- Socks: 11
- Sneakers/Tennis shoes: 1
- Work/construction shoes (closed toed, may get ruined): 1
- Clothes for travel and non-work days (shirt & pants): 3 – 4 days worth
- Painting/Construction clothes (shirt & pants): 5 days worth **Ideally not with large holes*
- Modest (knee-length) shorts: 1 **Not suggested for construction, see jungle note below*
- Long-sleeved shirts: 2
- Sweatshirts (zip-up, hooded, or otherwise): 2
- Light jacket (waterproof if possible): 1
- Modest sleepwear: 1
- Swimsuit (one piece and shorts for girls, no speedos for guys): 1
- Reusable water bottle: 1
- Hat: 1 – 2
- Hand sanitizer
- Work gloves/rubber gloves (for painting, cement work, etc.)
- Headlamp or Flashlight and batteries
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent (DEET 35-80)
- Additional face masks

Girls:

- Church clothes (knee-length skirt, nice pants, modest shirt, no tank tops): 1
- Church shoes (sandals or low-heel): 1
- Hair Supplies: Blow dryers, curling irons, etc. Coordinate between participants to share.

All shirts/pants must be modest: regular t-shirts - no skin-tight pants, no sleeveless shirts or tank tops.

Guys:

- Church clothes (dress pants, khakis, nice jeans and a nice shirt, polo, button-up, etc.): 1
- Dress shoes for church (not sandals): 1

Pants are recommended, although you may choose to wear shorts after work and on travel days. Please bring modest, knee-length shorts in this case. No sleeveless shirts.

Toiletries (Put liquids in ziploc bags to prevent leaking during flight):

- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Soap, Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Chapstick or lip balm
- Sunscreen (essential #30+)
- Shaving cream & razor
- Tissues
- Other meds (Advil, Pepto Bismol, Claritin).
- ALL STUDENTS MUST BRING DRAMAMINE

Jungle Trip:

- Waterproof jacket or poncho
- Anti-itch cream for bug bites
- Anti-malaria pills (Not required, only if you so choose)
- Clothing: lightweight, quick dry materials are recommended. We still suggest pants due to insects and strong sun, but modest (knee-length, loose) shorts are permitted.
- Bathing suit/boardshorts (see note above about modesty). Girls should be ready to wear a shirt and shorts over a bathing suit if situations call for it.
- Towel for swimming

Optional:

- Snacks: granola bars, etc. for in between meals
- Ear plugs
- Bandana(s)
- Water Shoes/sandals

Frequently Asked Questions

Why short-term missions?

We believe that Jesus has shown us how to love others through his life and teaching; Jesus himself did not come to be served, but to serve. The heart of missions is an expression of this kind of life that Jesus calls his followers to live. Whether we serve our local community or travel abroad to serve those in foreign lands, we become the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need. As we step outside of our comfort zone and serve in new cultures, we learn more about ourselves, more about God's people, and more about God's heart. When we serve on short-term trips, we get to experience the incredible ways God works IN us as he works THROUGH us!

Why do we serve with One Collective in Ecuador?

We have a long history with Ecuador and the El Refugio youth camp. In the 1950's Bubs and Bobbie Borman were sent from Chapelstreet Church (then FBCG) as our first-ever international missionaries to Ecuador, to serve an indigenous people group and to translate the Bible into their language. They served and raised their kids in Ecuador for the next many years. Their son, Rick Borman, fell in love with God's creation and His people in Ecuador, and in 1999 founded an adventure camp, Hacienda El Refugio (translated means "House of the Refuge"). In that same year, the first short-term student team from Chapelstreet Church went to serve with Rick at El Refugio and we have sent a student team every year since then (with the exception of 2020 & 2021).

During our time in Ecuador, we will work on several construction and improvement projects at El Refugio, experience a jungle camping adventure, jungle baptisms under a waterfall, VBS with local children, a sunrise perimeter hike up the mountain, and a trip to the Equator. We have seen how God has used this relationship with El Refugio, as well as the experience of His creation and His Ecuadorian people to move in the hearts of our students as they serve and expand their knowledge of God. To learn more about El Refugio, visit their website: www.haciendaelrefugio.com

Where will we stay?

We will be staying in cabins at Hacienda El Refugio camp, except for the trip to the jungle where we will stay at a former missionary home on the outskirts of the jungle.

Are the worksites safe?

We work at El Refugio and in their local community with knowledgeable and experienced staff. Our students will always have our adult leaders and/or local ministry leaders with them at their worksites.

How are medical emergencies handled?

Our leaders will use every precaution with any illness/injury that occurs. There is a hospital in Quito, about an hour away from El Refugio, and there is a medical clinic close to camp. We seek guidance from our mission partners' experiences & relationships in their community in situations like these.

What if my student needs to take medications while on the trip?

Our staff team will have a copy of the allergy, medication, and medical needs based on the trip application and medication form completed by parents. Medications will be under the supervision of adult leaders and accessible to students as needed.

What is your policy on drugs, alcohol and smoking?

We have a zero-tolerance policy and students who abuse this will be sent home at the family's expense.

Can students use their cell phones?

While students will be allowed to use their cell phones during travel days and for picture taking, we ask for students to not add an international plan to their cell phones. Several leaders will have their cell phones with them at all times & we will regularly post updates on our trip social media page. Students who need phones for medical reasons will be allowed to keep them strictly for that purpose.

Can you accommodate dietary restrictions?

We will do our best to accommodate any special dietary needs. Please make this information available to Beth Miller bmiller@chapelstreetchurch.com ASAP in order to make accommodations.

Do students need to bring money?

Spending money will be needed if the student wants to purchase souvenirs, snacks, etc. during free time activities. We recommend students bring around \$125 (in small bills).

Will students need to exchange their currency?

Ecuador uses the US dollar, and the dollar goes further in Ecuador. Small denominations are the most acceptable means of exchanging money for souvenirs and food.

How can my student apply?

Team applications are done through ManagedMissions. That application link, the scholarship link and all of the paperwork links are found on the website.