



Summer Mission Trip Quito, Ecuador

July 1-10, 2027

(*Tentative, subject to confirmation)



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Important Dates

*Unless otherwise noted, **all training meetings are held on Sundays, 12:30-2:00 pm at Waterloo Campus.**

Applications due:	October 30, 2026
Team formed and notified on/before :	November 15, 2026
Initial Team Meeting	Sun, Nov 22 12:30-2:00p
POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER – Waterloo / Kitchener East / South	Sun Nov 29 all morning
Training Meeting 1	January 10 12:30-2:00p
Training Meeting 2	February 7 12:30-2:00p
Plant Sale & Training Meeting 3	March 21 12:30-2:00p
Training Meeting 4	April 18 12:30-2:00p
Training Meeting 5	May 16 12:30-2:00p
Commissioning (Waterloo) and Packing Party	June 27 All Morning
Departure	Thurs July 1, 2027
QUITO TEAM CELEBRATION LUNCH – Waterloo Campus	Sunday July 25, 2027

Attendance is mandatory for all team meetings. Emergencies and other sound excuses are subject to judgment by the team leaders; having previous trip experience is no excuse to miss a meeting. The exact dates and times will be given by the team leader at the information meeting. Please schedule these times on your calendar as they will be given to you well in advance. Failure to attend these meetings could result in removal from participating on the trip WITHOUT refund.

Team Responsibilities and Activities

Being part of a short term missions team means taking on some specific assignments and/or responsibilities during the training and through the time of the trip. Team members will be responsible to follow through with any assignments and responsibilities agreed upon and distributed by the team leaders.

General Responsibilities:

- Each team member will need to have a written testimony --- You will have the opportunity to share your story in Quito
- You will need to raise all the required funds
- Complete the **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Awareness training** provided by International Teams
- Get a **Police Check** if you will be age 18 or over as of Dec. 31, 2026 and forwarded to your team leaders. We will provide a request letter for each applicant who needs a police check, therefore getting it at a reduced rate of \$20.
- Accept the leadership of your team leaders. They have been approved and entrusted by the Missions Team and Elders to lead this mission trip. Although opinions may differ from time to time, you are subject to the leader's direction while in preparation for and during the trip. Unity, submission and servant-hearts are essential to the success of the mission.

Activities:

- Lead and participate in games/ ice-breakers with kids and youth.
- Cook, serve food, plan and run special events for various groups in the church.
- Prepare things to perform as a team (a mime skit, worship songs in Spanish, Bible lessons that can be taught using visuals/with translation).
- Prepare craft activities for all ages.
- Join and participate in church services, small group meetings, and retreat times.
- Time to enjoy hiking, swimming, and sight-seeing with them
- Some painting or other construction-type work to do.
- Lots of opportunities to encourage, pray with and for and learn from our partner church and her people in Carmen Bajo.

- Daily debriefs together to process what you are doing, experiencing and feeling.

Cost

BASIC TRIP COST

*Approx. **\$3,400 CDN**

- (incl. flight, food, accommodations, transportation, supplies & resources, admin, host/translator fees, team shirts/sweaters, bus to/from Toronto airport)
- Donations for the basic trip cost are tax-receiptable and processed through International Teams Canada

Extra costs:

- Passport (Expiry date no sooner than January 2028) \$120 *if you don't have one
- Police Check (if age 18+ on Dec 31, 2026) \$20 *with request letter
- Travel medical insurance \$35 *if don't have any
- Immunizations \$100-\$400 approx.
- Your own US spending money (for souvenirs) \$100+

Notes about payment...please read CAREFULLY!

1. Deposit of \$200 is required when you are selected for the team.
2. All cheques are to be made out to **International Teams Canada**, indicating your name and "July 2027 Quito Mission".
3. **All money given towards a trip is non-refundable.** Please bear in mind that if for any reason you do not end up going, all the money that you and your donors have given cannot be refunded.
4. You are responsible to cover all Costs for your trip.
5. **If you need to step off the team, you will still be required to pay the full cost of your flight ticket, unless there is an option for you to be credited.**
6. Each team member will have a web page for fundraising online.
7. **Full payment for the mission trip must be made by the given due dates.**
8. In the event that Creekside's Missions Team and the Elders choose to cancel the trip (i.e. not enough people to go on trip, unsafe travel/environment in the country of destination), any dollars given by you towards the trip will NOT be refunded. Being a charitable organization, International Teams does not issue refunds for contributions given.

Fundraising

Every team member is expected to raise their personal funding amount, through asking family/friends/co-workers etc for donations. While a team member may be able to pay some or even all of their own way, we encourage everyone to invite others to not only support you with prayer, but also to invest in your ministry financially as well. People pray for what they pay for! In addition to this, the team may work together to raise funds to go into the team's general pocket, to be dispersed where needed most among team members. All team members are expected to fully participate in whatever fundraising project the team agrees together to undertake. Your team leaders and trainers will give you more information on this at the first training meeting.

Be aware of the possibility that pricing for the missions trip could increase due to circumstances beyond our control (ie. fluctuating exchange rates). We assure you that Creekside will do everything possible to make each mission trip as affordable as possible without ever compromising the safety and quality of experience for any mission trip participant.

Prepayment

In the event that a volunteer's fundraising goal is not met by the agreed upon due dates, the remaining balance must be paid upfront to iTeams Canada either by donation or using our Prepayment Option. The Prepayment Option allows individual team members with outstanding balances or the sending church/group to submit a cheque valuing the fundraising balance to cover their costs while they continue to fundraise up until, and 30 days after, their trip. Any amount of the fundraising balance raised during this time will be reimbursed to the issuer of the Prepayment Cheque, as long as it was properly submitted with a completed Prepayment Form, and was not given in the form of a donation. Any prepaid funds not covered by fundraising within this time frame will be reallocated as a donation at the end of this 30 day post-trip period and a tax receipt can be issued. Prepayments may also be used to cover the cost of flight deposits, where applicable.

Refunds

Per the Canada Revenue Agency, iTeams is unable to refund donations for any reason. This includes donations that are made for the purposes of arranging travel by land, air, or water, as well as arranging lodging, food, or other reasonable expenses. Donations are gifts that transfer ownership from the donor to the charity; once the transfer is made, the charity's governing documents oblige it to use the gift to carry out its charitable purposes. Donations made to individuals whose travel is postponed due to a travel advisory will be held for one (1) year for the purpose of rescheduling travel, less any funds already used to cover travel and/or in-country costs. If, within one year from the original date of departure, the team has not rescheduled an Impact Team experience,

donations made will be used at the discretion of iTeams Canada to carry out its charitable purposes.

Fundraising Surplus

In the event of a fundraising surplus, the surplus funds will be used at the discretion of iTeams Canada to carry out its charitable purposes. Designated giving to individuals or initiatives that fall outside the program structure will not be allowed or managed by International Teams Canada.

iTeams Impact Program Communities

iTEAMS CANADA COMMUNITY

As iTeams Canada facilitates their involvement with an Impact Program, the volunteer will be expected to comply with established screening, training, safety and data collection practices:

- Completing all required paperwork including supplying police checks, proof of travel insurance and parental consents (for those under 18)
- Consulting a medical professional about necessary vaccinations for travel as outlined by Public Health Canada
- Self-identifying to the team leader any medical or physical concerns that may impact one's ability to participate fully in the team experience
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- Acknowledging that the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada) advises on the risk associated with travel to international countries, and if the Government of Canada and/or local program leadership advises against non-essential travel and/or travel to a specific country, iTeams will decide to postpone travel for up to one (1) year for the safety and wellbeing of all participants.
- Engaging in all mandated Impact Team training/debrief elements and sessions

PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY

As a participant of an Impact trip, the volunteer is joining a community of partners who support and relate to the Implementing Community before, during, and after time overseas. A positive and mutual partnership between partners, local leaders and their organizations in the implementing community adds velocity and kingdom value to the transformative work being done. As an Impact Team member and partner, the volunteer will be expected to:

- Respect the work and approach of the Local Leadership
- Honour the input of the Program Champion where it is given
- Learn about (before) and advocate for (after) the program and its work, with opportunities to participate in future initiatives in support of the program
- Meet all fundraising goals and deadlines punctually
- Steward donations well by keeping close track of those gifts needing receipts by using donor response slips, properly thanking donors and communicating the value of their support
- Commit to praying for program leadership and those benefiting from the work being done

IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY

Implementing communities, led and controlled by wise local leadership and Christian congregations, know best the needs of their community, in many cases having dedicated

their lives to the transformative work they are doing to break cycles of poverty. These Implementing Communities exist within the context of their own regional and national governance, whose restrictions and directives may differ from those in Canada. As guests, Impact Team Volunteers are given the privilege of being present in the implementing community with the permission of local leadership to learn, support, and build relationships with community members and staff. As such, and as representatives of iTeams and the partnership community, it is expected that Impact Team Volunteers:

- Abide by the requirements laid out by local governments and/or industries, including those related to international travel, and understands that failing to do so may result in denied entry into the destination country. Requirements may include but are not limited to obtaining visas, receiving immunizations, performing testing to confirm certain illnesses, or being required to isolate due to exposure to or confirmation of an illness.
- Abide by all standards, guidelines, rules, and practices as outlined by iTeams Canada and their associated leaders in the Implementing Community.
- Participate in all mandatory team activities, submitting to the supervision and discretion of Team Leader, the itinerary, and all local leadership with flexibility and a positive attitude
- Conduct themselves at all times in line with the iTeams Canada Code of Conduct, with cultural sensitivity and respect, allowing local expectations to govern their dress, speech, consumption of alcohol, tobacco or drugs, interactions with the opposite sex, handling of money, and any other behaviour deemed culturally inappropriate
- Respect the involvement of prayer, bible study, and church services
- Remain focused on the trip's purposes; not treating the trip as a vacation or a self-serving experience, refraining from pursuing a romantic relationship with other team members during the trip or local community members at any time
- Always acknowledge the dignity, agency, and God-given value of local leaders and community members in any trip-related photography and storytelling, including, but not limited to, asking for permission to take photos, sharing only appropriate pictures and telling an individual's story only with consent.

FAQs

What Vaccines do I need?

As with many destinations, hepatitis A & B, typhoid, altitude-related and food/water borne illnesses are a risk. You will also want to be sure that you have sufficient quantities of any other medications that you regularly use or anticipate needing.

The Region has several travel clinics that will provide the specifics on what you need or should consider getting.

See <http://chd.region.waterloo.on.ca/en/clinicsclassesfairs/travel.asp>

***There is a consultation fee*

***Appointment bookings are at least one month in advance, so it is VITAL to book your appointment at least 4 months before the trip departure date*

Immunizations for Quito are based on Health Canada's recommendations for travel into that particular region. See <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>. Teams do not require vaccinations for lower-altitude or jungle regions. Be sure your consulting physician knows you will remain in Quito or higher altitudes the entire duration of your time there.

What are the accommodations like?

Usually teams stay in Christian-owned and operate hostels in Quito, with common kitchen space, 4-5 bunked in rooms with separate washrooms. You will need to be willing to room with others of the same gender and all room assignments will be in compliance to SAEA protocols.

Bedding & pillows supplied. Bring your own towels & washcloths.

What should I know about the meals?

You will be well fed (lots of chicken and potatoes!). The facility is not equipped for special diets such as vegetarian. You will need to eat what is provided. You may want to bring snacks like nutrient bars.

Most water in Quito is contaminated and unsafe for use to drink. Only drink bottled water or pop which is provided to you.

What is the weather like?

Quito is very temperate (18-20 degrees Celsius most days) but a light jacket is always kept handy. UV radiation is 13+, so sunscreen and hats are a requirement every day. Quito is at a very high altitude (9,500 feet +) and its air quality is also not the best. If you have any concerns, please consult your doctor.

What luggage can I bring?

1 suitcase per person to be checked in

1 carry-on bag/backpack with sufficient supplies in case your luggage does not arrive when you do (it happens!).

Each team member may be responsible for 1 duffel bag of supplies being brought down by the team.

How to apply

- Carefully read through this information with your parents.
- Fill out the ONLINE ***International Teams Application Form*** at this link:
<https://forms.gle/VAbxsZpeo6AQw3B97>
- **Please note: a filled out application form does NOT guarantee a spot on the team.**
- You will be interviewed, references checked, and the Missions Team and trip team leaders will be evaluating applications and selecting the team.
- Once selected for the team, provide a cheque for the \$200 deposit payable to International Teams Canada
- You will need a **Canadian passport** with an **expiry date no sooner than January 2028**. If you do not have a valid passport you will need to get one right away.