

Welcome to SPARK International Missions!

SPARK International Missions is a nonprofit organization committed to sharing God's love and His Word with others. We do this through providing care in our medical and vision clinics, education through our children's ministry, and discipleship building in our Bible studies.

We invite you to join our next mission team to serve the indigenous Quichua people living in the remote villages of the Andes Mountains in Ecuador. As we interact with our brothers and sisters, you will experience God in new and powerful ways as you witness His work in the world. This is an opportunity to make a change in your own life and the lives of others.

Since 2007, we have built meaningful relationships as our teams have worked alongside our long-term missionary, Dr. Manuel Avila Zeas. Our service projects have included building schools and churches, assisting with water projects, providing medical and vision clinics, growing disciples, and most importantly, spreading the Word of God.

We are excited that you have chosen to answer the call of the Great Commission and we are looking forward to serving with you. Your life-changing journey awaits you!

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

~ Matthew 28:19-20



Contact Bob or Rachel Hinshaw at info@sparkmissions.org

SPARKmissions.org

Spark International Missions is a 501(c)3 organization, Federal Tax ID# 82-4630419

Mission Travel Form Details

After completing the following, please submit the application packet (pages 3-9) including ALL of the following completed and signed documents:

- Ecuador Mission Application
- Medical & Emergency Contact Information
- Statement of Financial Responsibility
- Assumption of Risk and Hold-Harmless Release Form
- Code of Conduct
- Color copy of passport (if you do not have one yet, please provide as soon as you receive it)
- Complete the online background check (see information below)

Important Notes:

- **Families are welcome, however, children must be age 12 or older.** Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- **There is a limit of 20 participants for this mission.** Spots will be reserved based on receipt of your completed application, background check, and deposit. If your deposit is received after the 20 spaces have been filled, you will receive your check and application form back.
- **Passport:** Every participant must have a valid US Passport that does not expire before February 2, 2021. If you need to renew or apply for a passport, please do so as soon as possible. Please note, it typically takes 6-8 weeks for the application to be processed.
- **Background Check:** In order to accompany us on the mission, you will be required to pass a background/child abuse history check. You will complete this online and be required to pay the fee (typically \$19.95 - fees may vary based on where you have lived in the past five years).
 - Please go through our account at Safe Hiring Solutions at the following link:
<https://secure.safevisitorsolutions.com/Safe/Volunteer/006469/volunteer>
- **A \$150 non-refundable deposit is part of the \$1895 mission price.** Should a participant choose to cancel their trip, this money will be retained by SPARK International Missions. If plane tickets have been purchased, that money is also non-refundable.
 - In the event that SPARK International Missions has to cancel a trip, the organization will only refund the money that it is able to recover. For example, if the airline does not refund the money paid for plane tickets, SPARK International Missions will refund everything except for airfare.
- **To confirm your trip**, please send your **completed** application, all related documents, and the \$150 non-refundable deposit (checks made out to SPARK International Missions by February 23, 2020, to:
SPARK International Missions, 2201 Woodfield Rd., Bloomington, IL 61704



Ecuador Mission Application

(Confidentiality will be maintained.)

NAME (as given on passport)

Last Name (Surname): _____ First (Given) Name _____

VALID PASSPORT: ___Y ___N EXPIRATION DATE: _____ NUMBER: _____
(application may be turned in without a passport, if you are in the process of applying for it)

Preferred Name: _____ D.O.B. _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Preferred Phone #: (_____) _____ Cell phone _____ Home _____

On a scale of 1 – 5 (5 = fluent) DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH? _____ ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER? _____

We are flying American Airlines, please provide you AAdvantage # if you have one?

ROOM MATE PREFERENCE (if any) Name(s) _____

Children must be 12 years or older and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

If under the age of 18 complete the following:

Father/Guardian's Name: Last _____ First _____ MI _____

Address: _____ Phone Number _____

Mother/Guardian's Name: Last _____ First _____ MI _____

Address: _____ Phone Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Parent/Guardian signature, if under age 18)

Medical & Emergency Contact Information

Medical Information:

Primary Physician's name & phone numbers	
Health Insurance Company:	
Insurance Policy Number:	
Do you currently take any medications that we need to be aware of? Please list:	
Do you have any allergies? (If so, will you be carrying an epi-pen?) Please list:	
Do you have any dietary restrictions? Please list:	

Emergency Contact Information:

Name:	
Relationship:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Statement of Financial Responsibility

SPARK International Missions is dedicated to providing a mission experience that has a spiritual impact on both the people being served and on mission participants. In order to keep the mission expenses affordable, we adhere to the following parameters:

- **The Ecuador mission costs include:** airfare, hotel, 3 meals/day, bottled water, group transportation in Ecuador, translators, and trip insurance (basic plan provided by Volunteer Card).
- **All trip prices include a \$150 non-refundable deposit.** Should a participant choose to cancel their trip, this money will be retained by SPARK International Missions. If cancellation is after plane tickets have been purchased, that money is also non-refundable.
- **All money is due according to the payment schedule below.**

Item	Amount	Due Date	Important Notes
Deposit	\$150	March 15th or sooner	There is only space for the first 20 people who complete an application and pay the deposit.
Payment	\$872.50	due by April 12th	Deposit & first payment must be made by this date in order for your airline tickets to be purchased.
Payment	\$872.50	due by May 31st	If your final balance is not paid in full by June 21st, we reserve the right to cancel your trip with no refunds.

- **How to make your payments:**

- Deposit can be made at the February 23 or March 15 meeting (cash, check or card)
 - If you use a card there is an additional \$5 for the convenience fee.
- Payments of \$872.50 may be made in the following ways:
 - Bring payments to the meeting prior to the due date
 - Mail to Spark International Missions, 2201 Woodfield Rd, Bloomington, IL 61704
 - Bring payment to Bob or Rachel Hinshaw at Vale on Saturday or Sunday before or after service. (email info@sparkmissions.org to make this arrangement)
 - Pay online at <https://bit.ly/sparkmission2020>
 - Select Other and type 889.95 in the payment box. (This includes the 2% convenience fee for the \$872.50 payment.)

- You do not need to give to Go Fund Me. Click on the drop-down and select custom and type in 0. This is their personal fundraiser.
- Click on *Write a Comment*. In the message box, type your name and “2020 Mission”.
- Continue through the secured website entering your payment information and click the donate button.
- **Trip Support:**
 - Many individuals help defray the cost of the mission by asking for support from friends and family.
 - If an individual chooses to make a donation to Spark International Missions on your behalf, they may write the check out to Spark International Missions. They must give the check to you and you can combine checks to apply toward your payments.
 - They may also pay online, however, there is a 2% convenience fee.
 - Individuals who donate to Spark International Missions are contributing with the understanding that SPARK International Missions has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. This is necessary for the donation to be tax-deductible.
 - Please note, if you choose to back out of a trip or do not make payments in full, money donated in your honor will not be refunded.
 - More information and sample support letter templates will be provided at future Team Ecuador meetings.

If you have questions about your financial responsibility, please contact Bob or Rachel Hinshaw at info@sparkmissions.org.

I, _____ acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to the guidelines as set forth within this statement of financial responsibility.

 (Signature) (Parent/Guardian signature, if under age 18)

 Date

Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement

In consideration of being allowed to volunteer and/or stay with SPARK International Missions:

I, (name) _____ agree that I desire to participate in The Event: Ecuador Mission 7/25/20 – 8/2/20.

I, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, **do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue** SPARK International Missions and any and all of its volunteers, board members, partners, donors or associates **due to any and all claims including the negligence of the group mentioned above**, resulting in personal injury, accidents or illnesses (including death), and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in The Event.

Assumption of Risk: Participation in The Event carries with it certain significant, inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries.

The risks associated with The Event include, but are not limited to: loss of property, serious bodily injury, death, kidnapping, being held for ransom money, mental or emotional trauma, and contraction of possibly fatal pathologies.

The risks include, without limitation, living and working in dangerous circumstances, with limited access to medical care and proper sanitation, working with or around dangerous equipment which may break, fail, malfunction, or otherwise cause injuries.

The risks include, without limitation, using transportation arranged by SPARK International Missions to be used during The Event

I am mentally sound and physically capable of volunteering with SPARK International Missions in Ecuador.

SPARK International Missions projects are run by volunteers who may not have professional experience or professional-grade assessment abilities. It is my responsibility to be continually assessing possible risks as well as my own ability to perform the tasks offered to me, and it is my responsibility to expressly communicate any and all limitations and concerns I hold, as well as risks I am aware of. I have been briefed of the risks, with the understanding that every eventuality cannot be foreseen and be warned against.

I also agree to **INDEMNIFY AND HOLD** SPARK International Missions **HARMLESS** from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages, and liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my involvement with SPARK International Missions and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

SEVERABILITY: I expressly agree that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risk agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of Illinois and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and intend by my signature to be complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Name (print) _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

If you are under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign the acknowledgement on your behalf:

Name of Participant (print): _____

Name or Parent/Legal Guardian (print): _____

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Code of Conduct

As a member of SPARK International mission team, you are expected to conduct yourself according to the following set of rules:

1. Lift up Jesus Christ in prayer and with my thoughts, words, and actions.
2. Pray for and support Dr. Manuel and our team leaders and their decisions.
3. Make attendance to each team meeting a top priority. If attendance is not possible, contact a team leader.
4. At all times, maintain a servant attitude toward each team member, as well as those we serve.
5. Understand that mission travel and ministry can present unexpected and sometimes even undesired circumstances. However, my support, cooperation, and flexibility can be depended upon.
6. Interact with all team members and participate in daily devotions and sharing time.
7. Understand and value the local culture and their ways, being ever mindful that although their ways may be different, we are guests in their community and are there to serve and not dictate our ways.
8. During the mission, you may never go anywhere without another team member (except while you are at the hotel). Make sure a member of the team is aware of your whereabouts at all times.
9. No inappropriate physical contact among team members or with the nationals.
10. Dress culturally appropriate.
11. Abstain from the use of illegal drugs, profanity, and the inappropriate use of alcohol and tobacco.
12. Share complaints or concerns with team leaders only. Refrain from negativism, complaining, and gossiping with other team members.
13. Do not make promises to the locals or missionaries; this can lead to disappointment and bitterness. We have built trust and have developed long-lasting relationships that could be hurt by broken promises or misperceptions.
14. Remember that I am a servant of Jesus Christ called to be in ministry. I will serve to the best of my ability in the area where I am asked so that both the spiritual purpose and the mission task can be accomplished.

I, the undersigned, understand that trips like this can be difficult and agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct. I understand that if I am unable to follow the rules, I may be required to fly home early, at my own expense.

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

“The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all those who keep his covenant and obey His decrees.”

- Psalm 25:10