



SPRING LAKE CHURCH

Filter of Hope Mission Trip Information Packet

Salcedo, Ecuador

Saturday, January 24 – Friday, January 30, 2026

Filter of Hope Mission

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiQS2Pp8SU0>

Why Filter of Hope?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KY5iyZ-_cQ

- Filter of Hope provides the physical help of providing clean water, along with the spiritual help of the gospel message of eternal hope through Jesus Christ.
- Sharing the gospel is easy with the dirty to clean water analogy. We will be working with translators who will help us communicate the message clearly.
- Filter of Hope works through local churches and pastors to provide ongoing discipleship to those who hear the gospel message.

Information about Ecuador

- Location: Ecuador is located in the western corner at the top of the South American continent. Ecuador is named after the Equator, the imaginary line around the Earth that splits the country in two. Ecuador is roughly the size of Colorado and is bordered by Columbia and Peru. The Andes mountains and Galapagos Islands are also part of Ecuador.
- Language: Spanish is the primary language, along with Quechua.
- Brief History: Ecuador was part of the Inca Empire until the Spanish arrived and claimed the country as a Spanish colony. For three hundred years the Spanish controlled Ecuador. In 1822, Ecuador became independent of Spain.
- Demographics: About 16 million people live in Ecuador. About 10 percent of the population is of European descent. Another 25 percent belong to indigenous or native cultures and the remainder are of mostly mixed ethnicity. Many of the native people are subsistence farmers and only grow enough food for their family.
- Currency: The US dollar is used as currency.
- Altitude and Climate: Because of variations in altitude, Ecuador has a variety of climates. The location we are going to in the mountains has an average temperature of 68 for the high and 53 for the low (+/- 5 degrees) These temperatures are very consistent because of the elevation and nearness to the equator. We will have about a 50% chance of rain each day. The sun rises at 6 am and sets at 6 pm each day. The higher altitudes take time for some travelers to adjust to. Quito is 9,400 ft above sea level and Otavalo is 8,300 ft. (Green Bay, WI is only 581 ft above sea level)

What does a typical trip look like?

Travel: We will be flying American Airlines out of Green Bay to Chicago, to Miami, to Quito, Ecuador. In country, we will be traveling by a private bus. All travel is coordinated by Filter of Hope to ensure safe and reliable travel.

Lodging: Our team will be staying at Hotel Jarfi, in Salcedo, Ecuador. The Filter of Hope staff member(s) will be staying at the hotel with us for the week. The hotel is clean and safe.

- Although the hotel is safe, the team will not be leaving the hotel at night unless in a large group, approved and accompanied by the Filter of Hope staff member.

Meals: All meals in-country will be provided by Filter of Hope. The hotel partners with a trusted local restaurant nearby for most meals. The restaurant can accommodate many food allergies as long as we let them know in advance. Unlike restaurants in the US, the restaurant will not give a menu and each team member will not get to order their choice of food. Instead, they will serve the same meal to the whole group. It is best not to eat food and meals from untrusted sources. Our Filter of Hope staff member will be a guide for us when it comes to meals.

Sample Weekly Schedule:

SAMPLE SEVEN DAY TRIP SCHEDULE						
DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7
Travel Day Group arrives in location.	Breakfast 7:30 Leave base by 8:30 Church 9-10:30	Breakfast 7:30 Leave base by 8:30 Filter Distribution 9-12	Breakfast 7:30 Leave base by 8:30 Filter Distribution 9-12	Breakfast 7:30 Leave base by 8:30 Filter Distribution 9-12	Fun Day	Travel Day
Lunch Arrive at lodging Orientation	Lunch 12-1:30 Filter Distribution 1:45-4:30 or 5	Lunch 12-1:30 Filter Distribution 1:45-4:30 or 5	Lunch 12-1:30 Filter Distribution 1:45-4:30 or 5	Lunch 12-1:30 Filter Distribution 1:45-4:30 or 5		
Dinner 7:00 Practice with filter	Dinner 6:00 Debrief	Dinner 6:00 Debrief	Dinner 6:00 Debrief	Dinner 6:00 Debrief		

Fun Day: Thursday will be a Fun Day coordinated by the Filter of Hope Staff. It may include spending time in a local market, seeing a local attraction, or other activities. The cost of Fun Day activities is included in the trip cost, but you will want to bring some additional personal spending money for any souvenirs.

Mission Trip Details

Dates: Saturday, January 24 - Friday, January 30, 2026

Location: Salcedo, Ecuador

Trip Leader: Marybeth Geissler

Trip Cost: \$1,785 is your trip cost. (The original trip cost is \$2,085, but Spring Lake Church will pay the initial \$300 to help make the trip slightly more affordable for trip participants.)

- The trip cost includes flights, lodging, in-country transportation, meals, filters, travel insurance, and fun day.
- Team members will be responsible for the following costs: passport or passport renewal, any meals or snacks in airports or during travel to and from Ecuador, and any souvenirs or personal items (\$100 spending money recommended)
- Financial Options: **We do not want anyone to say no to going on a trip, just because of the cost.** We will work with you to provide opportunities for fundraising for your trip. SLC also has scholarships available to help cover up to 1/3 of your trip cost if you are unable to raise full support for your trip. Contact Dana Holle, Outreach & Missions Assistant, at dana@springlakechurc.org for more info.

Team size: 20 people maximum

Families: Families are welcome on this trip! Children 10 and older can go with a parent of the same gender.

Team Member Requirements:

Spring Lake Church requires the following in order to be a part of this missions team:

- Must be a follower of Jesus Christ
- Must be a member OR regular attender at Spring Lake Church (this trip may be open to friends/family outside of SLC if they have a connection to someone from SLC who is going on the trip, or if they participate in SLC programs on a regular basis.)
- Must be willing to complete a background check (if 18 or older)
- Must be 10 or older. Ages 10-17 must be accompanied by a parent of the same gender.
- Must be willing to attend all team prep meetings (to the best of your ability), participate in team preparation activities, and complete all training required for the trip.
- Must be willing to be flexible, possibly be pushed outside your comfort zone, serve others, share your faith, and represent Jesus Christ.
- There are no required vaccines for this trip. However, it is highly recommended that you be up to date on all routine vaccines (especially tetanus and HepA) as the risks are higher when traveling internationally.

Application Process:

If you are interested in being a part of the Ecuador mission trip, here are your next steps:

- Complete Application: The application can be found online at www.springlakechurch.org/events - click on the Filter of Hope event and find the application link.
- **Application Deadline: Friday, September 5**
- Your application will be reviewed and the team will be finalized by Monday, September 15. You will hear back from your team leader by this date to officially welcome you to the team.

Important Note: *If you are interested in this trip, please check your passport right away. If you need a passport or need a renewal, please begin this process immediately. Passports must be valid through 6 months past the return date of Friday, January 30.*

Trip Preparation:

Preparation for the mission trip will include 5 team meetings. These meetings are mandatory. If you have an emergency or important conflict, you must talk to a Trip Leader in advance for an excused absence. The 4 meeting dates include:

- Meeting 1- Sunday, October 5 at 11:45am- Bellevue Campus, Lakeside Room
- Meeting 2- Sunday, November 2 at 6:30pm- Bellevue Campus, Lakeside Room
- Meeting 3- Sunday, December 14 at 11:45am- Bellevue Campus, Lakeside Room
- Meeting 4- Sunday, January 4 at 11:45am- Bellevue Campus, Lakeside Room
- Meeting 5- Sunday, January 18 at 11:45am- Bellevue Campus, Lakeside Room

We ask that you prayerfully consider being a part of this Filter of Hope mission trip to Ecuador. The Trip Leaders and our SLC Missions staff will be praying for you as well!

Trip Leader Contact Info:

Marybeth Geissler

- Phone: 920-336-5306
- Email: marybethgeissler@gmail.com