



Quito, Ecuador's capital, sits high in the Andean foothills. Built on the foundations of an ancient Incan city, it is known for its well-preserved colonial center, rich with 16th- and 17th-century churches and other structures blending Europe-an, Moorish and indigenous styles. Amid the beauty and grandeur of the city, Episcopal missionaries Roberto and Cameron Vivanco, from Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church in Spartanburg, SC, teach and form relationships across socio-economic levels--from those in poverty to the middle and upper-class English-speaking members of the church. Roberto and Cameron will host our trip; and it promises to be a deep and powerful experience for both youth and adults.

DATES
Our trip will be 7 days and will be scheduled between June 7-June 15, 2026.

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?
You are invited to join Saint Paul's parishioners, family, and friends as we support our brothers and sisters in Christ by helping churches and communities with congregational activities and facility improvements. Previous projects have included digging and installing a water line for a family who had never had running water, repairing and installing a new roof on a church so that parishioners could attend Christian Formation without water leaking into classrooms, and making similar improvements to homes. We will also forge new relationships as we visit group homes for girls and boys who are in school or learning a trade, and learn the obstacles they have to face to move forward.

TIME FOR FUN!
Our trip will also include a planned visit to the Equator. (Although Quito is on the Equator, due to its elevation the weather is a comfortable mid-60's in the day and a cool 40's at night.) We will also visit a large market to shop for alpaca scarves and sweaters, silver jewelry, wood carvings, and other unique items at exceedingly reasonable prices!

WHO CAN GO?
With a parent, any child can go—although middle school age or older would be preferable. Without a parent, the ideal age for travelers would be 16 and over, although exceptions may be made depending on the student.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?
The trip will cost approximately $1,800 plus airfare (travel insurance included.) This includes all meals, all accommodations, all transportation in Ecuador, and all special programs. The only other expense would be souvenirs, if desired. There are funds available to contribute toward youth participants, and we will also have a fundraiser in early 2026 to offset expenses. Please let us know if you need help; we want this to be available to everyone who wants to participate.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VISITING QUITO, ECUADOR?
Safety is paramount, and you will never be alone during the trip. We will always be accompanied by two to three translators, and the police are a constant presence throughout the city. We are not aware of anyone's safety being compromised during any of the mission trips.

WHEN MUST I DECIDE?
For planning purposes, participants will need to notify Gene and Rose Helmich by January 31. Please prayerfully consider joining us as we reach out to people in need and serve as the hands of Christ. If you would like additional information about Quito, Ecuador, the mission work, and trip details, please contact Gene or Rose Helmich at ehelmich21@comcast.net, or call 803-640-3405.