ECUADOR MISSION TRIP
PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

Freedom Church Los Alamos | Serving with For His Children | Quito, Ecuador

June 25 – July 3, 2027

DATES: JUNE 25 – JULY 3, 2027	PLANNED LENGTH: 8 nights
ESTIMATED COST: ~$2,000 / person	LOCATION: Quito, Ecuador

Why we're going

Freedom Church exists to help people take the next step in their relationship with Jesus…together. In Ecuador, we want to serve and encourage the people already doing remarkable work through For His Children (FHC). We'll support its local staff and caregivers (tías) through approved activities, encouragement, and practical projects. We're going to serve alongside them, not to take over direct care of children.

Who can apply

Adults and students may use this same application. Students ages 13–17 are generally eligible. A parent or legal guardian is normally expected to travel as an approved team participant with their student; exceptions may be considered case by case. Eligibility and any exceptions remain subject to Freedom Church and FHC approval.

What the estimated cost covers

The planning target of about $2,000 per person includes airfare, lodging, and meals included in the trip package. Personal purchases are extra, such as airport meals, snacks, souvenirs, and other incidentals. The final amount may change with airfare, team size, and other confirmed expenses.

IMPORTANT: This is an interest/application form, not an enrollment contract. The trip is still subject to leadership approval and final arrangements. No payment is due with this application. Freedom Church will provide final payment, cancellation/refund, insurance, and release information before asking applicants to make a binding commitment.

Your application checklist

☐ Complete personal details and respond to the questions in your own words (pages 2–3).

☐ Read the team expectations and sign (page 4); a parent/guardian signs for a minor.

☐ Return the application using the instructions provided by Freedom Church leadership.

After applying, we'll arrange a brief get-to-know-you conversation (in person or by phone), then communicate next steps. An application does not guarantee team placement.

PARTICIPANT APPLICATION • SECTION 01

About you

Complete one application per traveler, whether adult or student. Print clearly; leave sensitive health and passport numbers for the secure process after acceptance.

Full legal name	**Name you prefer to use**
Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	**Phone number (if applicable)**
Email address (if applicable)	**Home city / state**
Parent/guardian email (if under 18)	**Parent/guardian phone (if under 18)**

01A / YOUR CONNECTION

I am applying as: ☐ Adult (18+) ☐ Student (13–17) ☐ Younger student seeking an exception

Where do you worship? ☐ Freedom Church ☐ Another church ☐ Not currently attending

If another church, name (optional): _____

How long have you been connected to Freedom Church or your current church? _____

Have you joined a mission/service trip before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Passport book status: ☐ Valid passport ☐ Need to renew/apply ☐ Unsure

01B / STUDENTS AND ACCOMPANYING ADULTS

If you are under 18: Is a parent/legal guardian applying to travel with you? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Name / relationship: _____

If you are an adult: Are you applying with a student? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Student name(s) / relationship: _____

If you hope to travel without the normally accompanying parent/guardian, explain briefly so we can discuss an exception:

_____

_____

01C / A REFERENCE WHO KNOWS YOU

Please list an adult (not a family member) who can speak to your character. For adult applicants who will work around children, leaders may request an additional reference during screening.

Reference name / relationship: _____

Phone or email: _____

PARTICIPANT APPLICATION • SECTION 02

Your heart for this trip

No perfect answers here. We want to know YOU. Students and adults can answer honestly in their own words.

1. Why would you like to serve with For His Children in Ecuador?

2. Tell us a little about your relationship with Jesus and where you are in your faith right now.

3. What does serving others look like for you today: at church, home, school, work, or in the community?

4. What gifts, interests, or experiences might you bring? (Examples: children, music, crafts, Spanish, organizing, practical work, listening, prayer.)

5. Mission trips involve sharing space, listening to others, and adjusting plans. What might be challenging for you, and what would you like to learn?

6. Is there anything else you would like the team leaders to know or talk about with you?

PARTICIPANT APPLICATION • SECTION 03

Serving well together

This is a team commitment, not a legal liability waiver or a guarantee of selection. We want every participant, adult or student, to represent Jesus thoughtfully, respect FHC's work, and help the team function well.

03A / WHAT WE AGREE TO

☐ Participate in team preparation, prayer, required training, and the agreed schedule.

☐ Serve with humility; respect the directions of FHC staff and the designated Freedom Church team leaders.

☐ Follow FHC's child-safety, supervision, boundaries, photography, social media, and privacy rules. Children remain in the care of FHC staff; no unapproved direct caregiving.

☐ Never seek private or unsupervised contact with a child, exchange personal contact details, or promise gifts or ongoing relationships without host approval.

☐ Speak up promptly to the designated leader or FHC staff about a safety concern or concerning behavior.

☐ Be flexible about assignments, food, accommodations, cultural differences, and changes of plan.

☐ Complete all required screening and releases and provide accurate travel details through the secure process.

☐ Respect the final cost and cancellation terms once provided; do not raise funds using unapproved church donation instructions.

03B / HOW TEAM SELECTION WORKS

Freedom Church will review applications, have a friendly get-to-know-you conversation (often by phone), and confirm willingness and readiness to serve. All participants will complete FHC-required training and age-appropriate screening, as permitted by law. Adults working around children must complete required background checks. Final approval rests with Freedom Church leadership and FHC.

Adult family members traveling with their own student are not automatically designated as chaperones for other minors. Additional supervision or student-travel exceptions must be specifically approved.

03C / ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read the overview and expectations. I understand that the trip is not yet finally approved, that a place on the team is not guaranteed, and that financial, insurance, medical, and travel-consent terms will be provided separately before final enrollment.

Applicant name (print): _____

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

If the applicant is under 18, a parent/legal guardian must also sign:

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

KEEP FOR REFERENCE • SECTION 04

Preparing for Ecuador

These are the planned next steps; Freedom Church will provide final instructions, secure forms, and dates as the trip is confirmed.

04A / IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 25 – JULY 3, 2027	Planned travel dates (8 nights)
BY ABOUT MARCH 27, 2027	FHC requests team file, releases and checks ~90 days before travel
BY MAY 26, 2027	FHC requests final invoice payment ≥30 days before travel

Our church's earlier internal deadlines will be announced once leaders confirm the team and booking schedule.

04B / WHAT HAPPENS IF SELECTED

☐ You'll receive the final trip decision, total price, written payment/refund policy and insurance details before paying.

☐ You'll participate in several preparation meetings, including orientation about conduct at FHC, child protection, and social media.

☐ You'll submit passport details/copies, travel permissions for minors, FHC release forms, background-check forms, and confidential health/emergency information securely.

☐ You'll work with the team on simple, staff-approved activities for the children (often about 30 minutes at a time), encouragement for the tías, and other agreed projects.

☐ You'll get a final packing list, flight details, lodging/rooming instructions, and activity plan.

04C / TRAVEL, HEALTH AND INSURANCE

Check your passport now. U.S. travelers to Ecuador are currently advised to have a passport valid at least six months beyond arrival; other nationalities or transit routes may have different requirements. Quito is at high altitude, so talk with your clinician about any relevant health needs and review current Ecuador travel guidance before departure.

Freedom Church will confirm the required group travel-medical and emergency-evacuation arrangements, and whether trip-cancellation protection is offered or optional. Do not assume that U.S. medical insurance covers treatment overseas. No passport number, Social Security number, medical records, or insurance card copy is required with this initial application.

04D / MONEY AND FUNDRAISING — NOT YET FINAL

Approximate cost: $2,000 per traveler, subject to final bookings and team size. Included: airfare, lodging, and planned meals. Not included: airport food, personal snacks, souvenirs, and other individual purchases. No deposit is due now. If approved, you will receive the written payment calendar and the rules for cancellations/refunds before you commit.

Prayer supporters are an important part of this trip. If you wish to invite financial support, please wait until Freedom Church supplies its approved giving instructions. Donations to the church and direct personal trip payments are not interchangeable and may follow different refund rules.

OPTIONAL RESOURCE • SECTION 05

A starting point for prayer & support

Use only after the trip, team approval, and official Freedom Church giving instructions have been confirmed. Make this your own rather than copying it word-for-word.

Our posture: We are guests coming alongside FHC's staff and caregivers. We will honor children's privacy and will not share their personal stories or images without explicit permission.

Sample personal letter

Hi [Name],

I wanted to share something I'm excited about. I've applied to join a Freedom Church Los Alamos team serving with For His Children in Quito, Ecuador, June 25–July 3, 2027. FHC's team cares for children, and our role is to encourage the local caregivers and help with activities and practical projects the staff approves.

I want to go because [share your personal reason]. I'm praying this experience helps me grow in my relationship with Jesus and become better at serving others—both in Ecuador and here at home.

Would you consider praying for our team? Specifically, pray for wisdom, unity, safety, and encouragement for the FHC staff and children. [If the trip is approved and Freedom Church has authorized support-raising: add the exact giving information supplied by the church.]

Thank you for being part of this with me!

[Your name]

05A / A FEW HELPFUL REMINDERS

☐ Make prayer and relationship the focus, not a fundraising quota.

☐ Use only the approved Freedom Church giving instructions; never promise individual-directed gifts will be tax deductible.

☐ Wait for final dates/costs and church authorization before soliciting donations.

☐ After the trip, thank your supporters and share what you learned without exposing a child's private information.

Helpful official resources

- For His Children: forhischildren-ecuador.org/volunteervisit
- U.S. passports & Ecuador: travel.state.gov
- Health preparation: cdc.gov/travel