

Short-term Teams Program 2024

Come alongside Jungle Kids for Christ and support and encourage the ongoing ministry efforts.

Our Vision for Short-term Teams

To expose, inspire and challenge team participants to become active givers of their time, talent, and treasure for God’s kingdom work.

Our Mission for Short-term Teams

To partner with leaders who want to purposefully and meaningfully expose men and women to God’s kingdom work, healthy short-term mission opportunities, inter-cultural experiences and controlled challenging circumstances, so that they may become active givers of time, talent and treasure towards God’s kingdom work.

We benefit from short term teams and short-term missionaries in many ways:

- We build relationships with people, schools, churches, and organizations that are God centered.
- We build our facilities with the financial support, and manpower from teams.
- We build relationships with the community by creating job opportunities for local people such as lodging, food, travel and more.
- Short term missionaries are exposed to our ministry and have the opportunity to see if God is calling them to partner with us. Partnering by means of returning for a long-term mission opportunity, prayerfully, financially, or relationally.

Finance Snapshot

Per Diem per participant

7 Nights: \$760 | 8 Nights: \$820 | If Longer: Calculated Upon Request

Team Student Sponsorship

Teams PAX of 15 or more: \$1740 | Team PAX of 10 to 14: \$1080 | Team PAX of 10 or less: \$660

Every team that partners with us sponsors a student at Antioch for the current school year and is applied to the team, not the individual participant.

Per Diem above includes the following:	
Lodging for nights included (7 or 8)	Purified water
All meals for trip (including arrival day)	Bus driver expenses
Translators and their expenses	Missionary (guide) expenses: gas, food, etc.
Canoe trip down river	\$75 Ministry Fee
Transportation while in country	\$100 Project Fee
Tourism - Baños, Quito, and the jungle	Community “refrigerio” (snack), if needed

It is not necessary to bring spending money for food or housing as everything has been covered by the trip cost, but about \$200, in bills no larger than \$20, is recommended for spending money on snacks and souvenirs, if desired.

Required Documentation

Each team member must have **(1) a valid US passport within 6 months of expiration from the date of the trip.** If a team member has a passport from a country other than the US, please check Ecuador's visa requirements for that country. Each team member must have **(2) a signed and notarized *Medical and Liability Release Form*** that will be sent to you at a later date.

Schedule Breakdown

We divide our schedule into four main parts: student/kid program, work site, team time, and tourism/culture and our goal is that each encourage the growth of the team, the people being served and ultimately God's kingdom.

Student/Kid Program

Empowering children of the jungle is our mission and so each of our teams should be involved in the development of kids in this area. This program can take on various forms that are mostly dependent on team strengths and make up along with ministry needs and schedules. Examples include, but not limited to, student academic programs, community VBS, basketball camps, individual lessons in SRH, program for ministry staff / teachers / missionaries (empowering those empowering the children). This is ultimately determined by the needs of the ministry and the teams' makeup and skillset.

Work Site

We can honestly say that Teams have had a direct effect on the campus buildings and facilities as hands of our teams have touched every building and structure in one way or another. When your team is here, they will be working alongside our local maintenance staff and construction workers providing manual labor supporting the current projects on campus. Sometimes this will look like building something new, but other times it will be upkeep, ongoing maintenance, and campus beautification. Regardless, the work site is an excellent chance to work together as a team and know that your efforts are going to advance the mission. Note: if someone on your team has a specific labor skill (carpentry, welding, etc.) please let us know and we may be able to utilize that specific skill.

Team Time

Each evening, we leave time for your team to debrief and talk about the day. This time is run completely by the team leaders and depends on the team's make-up, i.e., a youth team will have a different focus than maybe an adult or family driven team. We can offer suggestions for how to do this time, but it is the team leaders' responsibility for the execution. On one or two nights, our missionaries will join the team for dinner and then be a part of the sharing time afterwards giving your team a chance to catch a small glimpse of ministry life in Misahuallí.

Tourism and Culture

Outside of the time and energy invested into the labor and programs, we want to provide an all-inclusive experience and part of that is giving the team a chance to get a small taste of God's beauty in Ecuador through its natural beauty and culture. Throughout the trip we will take advantage of travel days and weekends to provide these types of experiences. In the per diem, some tourism is covered and so we work together to build out what makes sense for the team based on interests and scheduling.

Suggested Packing Lists

We included a general team packing list for the leaders as well. Each list is not comprehensive but is a good place to start.

Personal Packing List

Passport (within 6 months of expiration)	Insect repellent and sunscreen
Driver's License / State ID	Two reusable water bottles**
Bible (maybe not your super nice one)	Personal snack items: granola bars, crackers, etc.
Pen and paper for writing and journaling	Plastic bags or trash bags for dirty laundry
Personal medicines: aspirin, Imodium, ibuprofen, lip balm, antihistamines, decongestants, etc.	Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, etc.
Prescriptions: please inform your team leaders	Other personal hygiene products
Rain jacket or poncho	Travel pillow for plane and bus rides
Tennis shoes	Extra contact lenses and solution
Light jacket or sweater if spending time in Quito	Spare set of glasses
Swimsuit (modest)	Sandals (Teva/Chacos) or Crocs
Hat or covering for head	Digital camera with enough batteries
Small pocketknife (not in carry-on bag)	Work boots (optional, rentals are available for a small fee)
Work gloves	Personal hand sanitizer
Clothes that you don't mind getting dirty	Small first aid kit
Long pants/leggings for work*	Small flashlight

*Refer to the complete dress code on the next page.

**It is very important that everyone comes with one or two reusable water bottles.

Team Leader Packing List

Copies of official team documents	Items being brought for ministry
Team first aid kit	Items needed for any programs

General medications	
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Dress Code

We have the following dress codes in place for participating in activities on campus with the students and at the work site. These are for the protection of the team and our students.

Student/Kid Program

All participants are required to wear pants or shorts that fall (at a minimum) to the top of their knees. If we believe that their shorts don't meet this requirement, they will be asked to leave campus to return with appropriate attire.

Work site

All participants are *required* to wear long pants and boots or closed toed shoes for their protection. Tennis shoes may be an option, depending on the work activity. Participants can bring their own work or rubber boots from home, or they can rent rubber boots from a hostel in town. Additionally, all participants are required to keep their shirts on during work.

Other Clothing Recommendations and Suggestions

Along with our official dress code above, here are a few suggestions on how to dress around town or in specific times of your trip.

Misahuallí

In the jungle, the norm is different than in Quito. The main source of income for the area is agronomy. Therefore, most people are always wearing work clothes. We recommend you bring appropriate shorts, light pants, light long-sleeved T-shirts, short sleeve T-shirts, one-piece bathing suit, and working clothes. The jungle is hot and humid most of the time. It rains a lot. Sandflies and other insects are a problem, so we recommend wearing pants instead of shorts. Nevertheless, some teams from hot/humid climates, such as Florida, have found that wearing shorts is comfortable and some bug repellent will keep the insects away. Bring clothes that you don't mind soiling since you will be working in construction with paint, concrete, wood, and dirt. Bring sneakers, sandals, or crocs for walking. Bring some long socks to be worn with your rubber boots. Also, you are a lot closer to the equator here so bring a hat or covering for head protection.

Church (if applicable)

If you are invited to attend church (other than in the farm setting) on your trip it is recommended that you dress "business casual". For men, khaki pants or jeans and polo shirts are acceptable. For women, pants or skirts with a nice top or a dress would be acceptable.

Quito

Ecuador is a very conservative country. Quito, the capital, because of its cold weather, is very conservative both in culture and dress code. Most citizens will always dress casually and will pay attention to how you are dressed. As a short-term missionary, you should pack a light jacket, pants or jeans, T-shirts or Polo shirts, and a pair of shorts for sports activities.

*The main point to take into consideration is to try to avoid bringing negative attention to you and your group by avoiding clothes that are revealing and provocative. We appreciate your desire to partner with us and your willingness to be flexible and submit to our expectations.

Communities

Misahuallí (Mee-sah-wah-YEE):

Located 200 kilometers east of Quito, Misahuallí is a small, river port town located at the junction of the Napo and Misahuallí rivers. The port has always been an attractive tourist destination because it is one of the main access ports. Misahuallí has a population of approximately 6000 people with about half around the town center. The remaining half are split up into 39 other smaller communities that are considered in the city's district. The main population is Mestizos Hispanic, Kichwa indigenous, and few Huaorani indigenous. Misahuallí is known for its rich indigenous cultural history, beautiful flowing rivers, and its capuchin monkeys! Unfortunately, though, the region is not a virgin jungle anymore, because it has been colonized for several decades so you will not be able to see much wildlife. But you'll still be able to see a variety of butterflies, jungle birds and tropical vegetation.



Pununo

Pununo is a small town with approximately 200 people, located 3 Km east of Misahuallí. Antioch campus is located next to this town and our ministry has been targeting the children and school of Pununo. Like Misahuallí, their main source of income is agriculture, lumber, and small businesses.

Tena

About a 30-minute drive from Misahuallí, Tena is the capital city of the Napo province, in which we are located. It has a population of approximately 34,000 people in the city and just over 60,000 in the metro area. There, we have access to a hospital, government offices, car repair shops, and larger grocery stores, markets, and restaurants. Tena is known as the capital of guayusa and cinnamon.

Lodging

Misahuallí

We have relationships with multiple hostels in town, all of which are a block or two away from the central park and are within walking distance to the Misahuallí River and Napo River. Meals will be clean, safe to eat and prepared by the hostel staff on site. There are plenty of shops around the park where you can find snacks, food, drinks, and souvenirs. Be sure to bring some extra spending money to support the local economy!

Quito

Upon your arrival you will be transported to a hostel near the airport. If any other nights in Quito are required, then you will stay in the northern part providing quick access to the top tourist attractions in

the city. Because the hostel arrangements are often for one night only, we ask that you be flexible on the room assignments, while of course, still maintaining “safe sanctuary” requirements.

Safety

Ecuador is a safe country overall when compared to other South American countries. However, your sense of awareness of your surroundings and people must increase because you will be in a new environment. Try not to wear clothing that is too flashy or that draws attention. In general, Ecuadorians dress conservatively so anything not conservative will draw unwanted attention. Carry a copy of your passport with you throughout your trip. Be aware of your surroundings and where you have placed important items.

In the jungle, the environment is very familiar and safe. You should feel free to walk into town even at night, but you should be accompanied by at least two or more people; preferably there is one male in the group.

There will be some activities such as swimming in the river, hiking and tubing available to do while you are in the jungle. These activities are not high risk, but keep in mind you should only participate if you are in good physical health and are physically able to do the activity. I.e., do not swim in the river if you do not swim well.

All meals will be provided for you, but you will have opportunities to purchase food outside of the meals provided. That said, we do not recommend you buy food from the street vendors; however, you can buy prepackaged snacks/foods and drinks in town.

Only drink bottled water, as it is not safe to drink tap water. Overall, we want you to enjoy the trip and experience all that Ecuador has to offer, but please be safe while doing so.

Spiritual Preparation

Your experience in Ecuador will depend a lot on your personal spiritual preparation.

General recommendations

- As a team, meet regularly before your trip. This is important for planning your program as well as building relationships. Depending on your team, you can read a book or go through a Bible study together, start a prayer group, or serve together prior to leaving for Ecuador.
- Keep in mind that you will need to remain flexible while you are in Ecuador – in a less time-oriented culture like Ecuador, things don’t always go as planned. Prepare to enter a different culture with an open heart and mind.
- Come prepared to listen, to see, and to experience the will of God for your life. A trip like this can change your plans and allow you to listen to God’s plans for you as well as expose you to a reality that may have been previously veiled by the world. Our prayer is that during this trip you would live out the instructions Paul gave when he said, “Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).

Suggested reading

- Short-term Team Training Manual by TMS Global. If interested, please let us know.
 - <https://www.tms-global.org/churches/short-term-team-training-productorg>
- “Let the Nations be Glad” - John Piper
- “Beyond Duty” - Tim Dearborn
- “Short Term Mission Workbook” - Tim Dearborn
- *For leaders: “Maximum Impact Short-term Mission”* - Peterson, Aeschliman, and Sneed

Communication

Leading up to the trip, most communication will happen via email. During the trip, we ask that team leaders have downloaded and set up WhatsApp, a common messaging platform in Ecuador. This app will work on WiFi and cellular data and will be the best way to communicate with JKC staff.

Contact Information

Laura Cavalenes – Short-term Team Coordinator

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Tyler Foster – Short-term Team Director

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Next Steps

After reading through this introduction, please reach out to JKC’s Short-term Team Coordinator, Laura Cavalenes, to ask any remaining questions. From there, the next big step is to decide on dates for the trip that work for both your organization and JKC. Once the dates are settled, leaders can begin reserving plane tickets and recruiting team members. JKC will be in contact with team leaders as we work together to determine the trip’s ministry focus and confirm details as the trip gets closer. We hope you will prayerfully consider partnering with JKC in ministry!