

PROJECT ECUADOR
MISSION STATEMENT

LIFEGUARDS FOR LIFE
LIFEGUARD TRAINING VOLUNTEERISM JOB CREATION

Project Ecuador is an international lifesaving venture for the Long Beach Lifeguard Association. Our purpose is to train citizens in Ecuador to become paid lifeguards, then to help guide groups to become self sustained professional ocean lifeguard services and ultimately join the International Life Saving Federation.

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STATEMENT of PURPOSE

Ecuador is a nation of non-swimmers. Access to pools is limited to the military and the wealthy. Most of the beaches had no lifeguards and the risk of death was too high. Lack of funds and proper training allowed this problem to go on for years. Now, strong support has been offered by the Ministry of Tourism plus the City Halls of Playas and Santa Elena are paying the lifeguards a living wage. Lifeguard towers have been erected in key cities. We will continue to consult the government to solidify this support.

Over 2 dozen California lifeguards have traveled to Ecuador at their own expense to help save lives. American cash and product donations continue to go directly to the Ecuadorian lifeguards in the form of buoys, whistles, binoculars, uniforms, rash guards, radios and first aid equipment. Over 45 Ecuadorians received uniforms and equipment in 2009 and 39 in the 2 previous years.

On the job training has yielded positive results in our covered areas. In 2009, 25 Americans joined forces with 45 Ecuadorians for a combined rescue total of 332 during the four day festival. To achieve international lifeguard standards, we are promoting a four week centralized lifeguard training program with advanced first aid / CPR. Spanish training manuals have been distributed and a Spanish training DVD is under development to further entrench our methods.

The framework for a national association has begun. The first formal lifeguard association in Playas will be the model for other regions as we expand from Guayas to Santa Elena and beyond. We will continue to consult with the lifeguards to solidify this effort.

Additional support in the form of lifeguard volunteers and rescue equipment is needed to continue the ongoing success of Project Ecuador. We plan to work with 100 Ecuadorian lifeguards in 2010 requiring additional buoys, radios and uniforms with a cost near \$10,000. The target number of volunteers for 2010 is 50, with 20 in Guayas covering Playas, Engabao and Data. The remaining 30 will be divided into Santa Elena Zones North, (Montanita, Olon, Libertador-Bolivar and Manglaralto and 4 others) and South (San Pablo, Salinas, Punta Carnero and 5 others).