

PASSPORT

All volunteers must have a valid passport in their possession to travel to Ecuador and participate in this program. This passport must be **valid for six months beyond the intended return date**. Those volunteers accepted into the program who do not currently have a passport should start the application process immediately! Obtaining a passport generally takes a long time to be processed and sent back to you, and you might need to expedite your passport in order to get it in time (this will cost extra). It's best to start early. Passport applications should be available at local county courthouses and post offices throughout the U.S. You'll need your birth certificate with a state seal and two passport photographs to submit with the application. Have the clerk look at your birth certificate, and if it's not adequate, order one immediately. In an emergency, you could travel to the state capital to obtain a birth certificate. Your county courthouse or post office will give you all the instructions on what's needed and how to fill out the forms. You can find more information about costs, time frames, etc. for obtaining a passport on <http://travel.state.gov/>. You need to personally make sure that you apply for your passport in time to receive it well before your departure. In most cases, Visas are not needed, however, U.S. and Canadian citizens traveling on regular passports do need a visa for a stay of longer than 90 days (and they're sticklers about this with heavy fines if not done accordingly).

After you receive your passport, give your passport number and a copy of the first page of your passport to your parents/emergency contact. Make extra copies of your passport before you leave and put a copy in each piece of luggage you take. Once you arrive in Ecuador, carry the copy with you each day, not the original. Safeguard your passport; it's a very important document. **Bring your original passport with you!**