



Mission Statement
University of Maine Engineers Without Borders (EWB-UM) strives to foster a worldwide cultural awareness and a strong sense of volunteerism in today's future leaders through sustainable and community-driven engineering projects.

New Program Acceptance in El Descanso, Ecuador

We have recently received official program approval to work with the community of El Descanso, a community of about 100 people in Ecuador. These people are in dire need of a clean and reliable water source. Their current water source is located about 1.5 miles away and downhill from the village, which forces member to carry their water by foot and mule uphill on a daily basis. A new water distribution system would leave more time for community members to pursue education and work opportunities and ultimately reduce water related illnesses. Our chapter has received technical approval for an initial assessment trip in May, and we are currently finalizing out trip plans and travel logistics.



Meet our Travel Team



Matthew Southard: Matt will be our Project Lead. He will also be the team surveyor and will be evaluating the local water sources and soil quality.

Eleanora French: Ellie will be the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (PMEL) Lead. She will be conducting house-to-house surveys to evaluate the community's state of health, infrastructure and poverty level.

Nat Midura: Nat will be the Primary Health and Safety Officer. She will also be conducting the water quality testing for all local water sources.

Maeve Carlson: Maeve will be the Trip Historian. She will also be working with Ellie to communicate with the community members and map the village.

Robert Sypitkowski: Robert is a Senior Environmental Engineer and the Professional Engineer in Charge (PEIC) for this project.

Karen Merritt: Karen is an Environmental Engineer and was a mentor for us in Honduras. She will be traveling as a design engineer and team translator.

Our Fundraising Efforts

Our Fundraising Team is aggressively working to expand our network and coffers. Through grants, personal donations, bottle drives, and the University of Maine, we hope to finish raising the about \$14,000 needed to cover our Assessment Trip costs. We are always looking to expand our network and opportunities, so if you or your organization would like to hear more, please contact us. We would be delighted to arrange for a meeting and presentation for you.

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