



ISLA Lifeguards Fight Drowning

The International Surf Lifesaving Association (ISLA) is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteer lifesavers and emergency medical personnel dedicated to preventing drowning through local and international training and education.

In 2008, ISLA was founded by four Huntington Beach Lifeguards with the mission to change the grim realities of drowning. Drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional death worldwide. In the past four year, ISLA has expanded their programs for drowning prevention to reach areas affected by high drowning rates: Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Macedonia, Mexico, New Zealand, and Nicaragua.

This holiday season, six ISLA lifeguards from Argentina and the United States are traveling to Chile as a partnership with the Servicios Especiales Acuaticos Ltda (SEAL). SEAL was founded by Claudio Pradenas Abarca and is a private lifesaving agency that provides services along the Chilean coast. ISLA and the SEAL lifeguards will be exchanging lifesaving techniques and patrolling the coast of Pichilemu during the holiday season.

“After the lifeguard exchange, we will be meeting with lifeguard officials in Chile, Peru, Argentina, and Uruguay to discuss drowning prevention strategies and exchange programs,” said ISLA’s President and Course Instructor, Henry Reyes. “Our goal through these programs is to raise awareness and share vital lifesaving knowledge to in order to change the impact drowning has on the world.”

Supporting ISLA

Interested in volunteering with ISLA? ISLA is always looking for lifeguards and non-lifeguards to share our mission, intern, join a voluntourism trip, and donate. Find out ways you can get involved on our website at <http://www.islasurf.org> or on the Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/ISLASurf>. All donations, equipment donations, and purchases from the ISLA store are tax deductible.