

Student Spotlight-Oscar San Roman!



1. **Tell us about yourself**

- I'm Oscar San Roman. I was born and raised in a city called Queretaro, Mexico. I'm 26 and I studied Medicine in Mexico.
- My biggest hobby, I think are altruistic activities. Since I was a child my dad showed me that if you're not willing to serve others, your life will be pointless and you'll lose your path. That's why I studied to be an EMT- paramedic and Medicine.
- I'm a fan of all sports. I do triathlons for fun and I come from a family in which most members are or were bullfighters (very controversial sport/art) but that's where I come from and I like it a lot.

2. **Why are you interested in the field of emergency preparedness and response?**

- Because of mainly three reasons. First, like I mentioned before, serving others is one big pillar in my life. Secondly, because I think that just a few people were given the gift of knowing how to respond and act when an incident happens. Therefore, if you have it, you have to prepare for it, improve and when the moment comes, act smartly. Finally, I'm a strong believer that prevention and education are the key for solving many problems in the emergency field.

3. **Can you share an experience that helped you in making a decision to pursue a career in this particular field?**

- I really don't have a specific experience, because my decision was made when I was 15. I got involved in an academy of first responders and I made my EMT career. During Med school, a group of EMTs that I led asked the University's Dean for an Ambulance so we can have a "relax activity" after our classes. He agreed and then the University created the Career.

- Besides that, I think one motivation for continuing in this field was experiencing the earthquake that hit Mexico in 2017 with one of my best friends, who's also an EMT, Firefighter, PADI Diver, etc (like an ActionMan Figure). We saw a lot of problems during the response there, mainly lack of education and preparedness. So we decided to form a Technical Rescue Team in which we started to train and prepare ourselves in Aquatic Rescue, Vertical Rescue, Structural Collapse Rescue, Confined Spaces, and Drone Rescue so that we can share the knowledge with other organizations and build a more prepared and educated society.

4. Who do you consider to be vulnerable populations?

- Personally, I think the ones we don't integrate into our "society teams." And I say "teams" because as members of a society, we get together with a bunch of different people with different skills and gifts which if we put them together we can build an amazing team on behalf of the most vulnerable.
- If we as whole gather together as a bigger team for the different disasters we will face, nobody will be vulnerable. I like a quote that says "My strength is made perfect in weakness," so if we help each other as a society and to others, we can get rid the world's "vulnerable populations."

5. What most recent disaster or emergency do you think is important to address?

- Hurricane Dorian.
- Mainly, because of two actions. First, the Prime Minister of the Bahamas announced the formation of a new government agency, the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction. Great decision, but shouldn't it be formed before ? Shouldn't any country be prepared for anything? If not, let's make a team with them and train them.
- Secondly, in his speech at the UNGA, he described the Hurricane as a "generational tragedy," which indeed calls us again to take action on climate change.

6. What is next for you after you complete your MPH degree?

- God knows ... I don't even know what I'm going to do this weekend. But I mean, I want to be like a sponge and absorb all the knowledge I can so that when the correct opportunity comes, I am ready to face any challenge, anywhere.

7. What is your dream job?

- Perhaps to be the Minister of Health or CEO of an International NGO in the health or disaster field.

