Alternative Spring Break Participant Application 2016

DEADLINE: Friday January 15, 2016 @ 5pm

Applications should be submitted in person to the Center for Civic Engagement (Lightsey 203)

| The Alternative Break program and the Center for Civic Engagement are committed to providing access for all people with disabilities. Please contact Christopher Ciarcia, Associate Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at ciarciac@cofc.edu for more information. |

Issues and Communities

Cultivating Connections with Each Other and the Environment: Environmental Justice and Mindfulness
Washburn, TN | Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center
This weeklong experiential learning opportunity in the mountains of Tennessee offers students the chance to examine Earth Literacy through spirituality, sustainability, and community. On this trip, you will delve into environmental issues through engaging in organic gardening, conservation projects, and eco-construction projects. In addition, we will emphasize nature-centric activities, such as yoga, hiking, and meditation in order to better understand the importance of Earth’s natural resources and the need for environmental activism.

Refugee Resettlement
Louisville, KY | Kentucky Refugee Ministries
A refugee is anyone who emigrates from his or her home country in order to seek asylum from persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a certain social group. The U.S. welcomes approximately 70,000 refugees each year. In 2012, Kentucky welcomed 3% of those refugees, who came from countries including Bhutan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Iraq. Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM) provides resettlement services for newly-arrived refugees that include interpreter services, cultural orientation, and employment services. We will be partnering with KRM throughout the week to help organize their donation warehouse and assemble the welcome kits of household items that each refugee receives upon arrival.

Affordable and Sustainable Housing
Charlotte, NC | Habitat for Humanity Charlotte
This weeklong experiential learning opportunity in Charlotte, North Carolina will address the nation’s housing crisis through education, direct service, and reflection. In Charlotte alone, there are 87,000 people who live in substandard housing as well as a need for an additional 16,000 affordable homes in the area. Through partnering with Habitat for Humanity Charlotte, we will gain a greater understanding of the housing crisis through participating in home construction and attending educational programing hosted by Habitat for Humanity Charlotte. PSA: There may also be a couple splinters involved.
Important Dates

Attendance is mandatory for listed dates.

Some meetings will occur during normally scheduled class hours, please plan accordingly when considering for a trip.

January

Tuesday, January 19th  
25% of trip cost due  

Wednesday, January 13th  
Social Justice & Diversity Workshop | (TBA) | 5:00-6:30 p.m.  

Wednesday, January 20th  
EOT#2 | (TBA) | 5:00-6:30 p.m.  

February

Tuesday, February 9th  
25% of trip cost due  

Wednesday, February 3rd  
Community Impact | (TBA) | 5:00-6:30 p.m.  

Wednesday, February 10th  
EOT #3 | (TBA) | 5:00-6:30 p.m.  

Tuesday, February 16th  
Final trip cost due  

Wednesday, February 24th  
Send off Meeting | (TBA) | 5:00-6:30 p.m.  

March

Saturday March 5th - Saturday March 12th | ALTERNATIVE BREAK!!  

Wednesday, March 16th  
Return & Reflect | (TBA)  

**TBD by trip: You will also be meeting as a trip group and for pre/post service projects**
Full Name (as it appears on government I.D.): ____________________________________________

Nickname: ____________________________________________ Phone: ______________________

Permanent Address:
________________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

Local Address:
________________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

Birthdate (m/d/y): __________ Class Year: _______ Major: _____________________________

E-mail: ___________________________ Student ID #: ________________________________

**Voluntary Demographic Data**

Colleges and universities are asked by many, including the federal government, accrediting associations, college guides, newspapers, and our own college/university communities, to describe the backgrounds of our students and employees. In order to respond to these requests, we ask you to answer the following questions. Submission of this information is entirely voluntary.

Religious affiliation: __________________________

Gender: __________________

Are you Hispanic/Latino?

__ Yes

__ No

In addition, select one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself:

__ American Indian or Alaska Native

__ Asian

__ Black or African American

__ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

__ White

This first page will be removed as part of a blind selection process, thus basic information will be requested again on the next page.
Class year/Major: 
Hometown: 
Have you been on an Alt Break trip in the past? 
Are you 21, licensed, and willing to drive in the US? 

**Essay Questions:**

Note: Participants are selected according to interest, availability of space, and answers to the questions listed below. Please remember that this is a blind selection process so please take time to submit thoughtful, typed responses to these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Describe a previous service experience for which you are particularly passionate.

2. Explain why you decided to apply for an Alternative Break experience instead of participating in other traditional spring break opportunities.

3. In your opinion, what role do active citizens play in a community?

4. Please provide any additional information that you think we would find useful during the selection process. (ex: Level of Spanish, previous construction or tutoring experience, etc.)

**Alternative Break Rankings:**

Note: Please rank ONLY the trips you are interested in participating on (1 most interested, etc). You will be considered for all trips that you rank.

___ Refugee Resettlement | Louisville, KY | Kentucky Refugee Ministries | $300
___ Sustainable and Affordable Housing | Charlotte, NC | Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte | $300
___ Environmentalism | Washburn, TN | Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center | $300