Alternative Break 2020 Participant Application

DEADLINE: Wednesday, November 12th at 5:00 pm to the Center for Civic Engagement (Lightsey 203)

What is Alternative Break?
Alternative Break is a transformative experiential learning opportunity where participants spend their academic break addressing critical issues throughout the country and world. The mission of Alternative Break is to empower participants to progress from members of their community to active citizens. With education, direct service, and reflection as a guide, participants embrace self-discovery and foster a sense of social awareness.

Each Alternative Break team consists of student participants, 2 student Site Leaders, and 1 faculty/staff advisor. Prior to the trip, participants engage in education, orientation, and trainings (EOTs); fundraising; and service. During the trips participants take part in strong direct service, educational programming, daily reflection, and leadership development. Further, when teams return to campus they participate in re-orientation, reflection, and post service.

Qualifications and Expectations:
All students who are currently enrolled at the College of Charleston are qualified to participate in Alternative Break. Previous experience with leadership or service is not necessary; however, the ideal participant has a passion for positive social change.

Please read all statements below carefully and seriously. Sign to indicate your agreement. Thank you!

COMMITMENT:
Being an Alternative Break participant requires time, energy, and commitment. By signing this statement, I am agreeing to invest that time, energy and commitment if selected to be a participant. I will attend ALL mandatory events, including all group meetings.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________

POLICIES:
Alternative Break participants are required to follow all Alternative Break and College of Charleston policies before, during, and after their trip at any event including our full engagement policy which includes an alcohol and drug-free experience. By signing this statement, I am agreeing to follow, and uphold Alternative Break and College of Charleston policies to the best of my abilities.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________

SURVEYS and JOURNALS
All Alternative Break participants will be asked to help us evaluate the program. The results will be kept confidential and will only be used for program feedback and improvement. By signing this statement, I am agreeing to participate in all surveys and evaluations, and to give honest feedback.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________

NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT POLICY
All students participating in the Alternative Break program will pay for their cost of the Alternative Break experience in installments. These payments will cover some of the cost of flights, program fees, and other prepaid aspects of the Alternative Break trip. The rest of the cost will be subsidized by the Center for Civic Engagement. All payments are final. In addition, I understand that if I do not ultimately participate in the experience that I previously committed to, I am responsible for ALL non-refundable portions of the program, which is usually a significantly larger amount than what I would have contributed through my payments. This includes, but is not limited to, a flight that has been purchased in my name, program fees that have been paid in my name, accommodations that have made for my use, etc. A hold will be placed on my account, and I will be unable to register for classes or graduate until I make payment in full.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________
Alternative Break Rankings

Please note there is limited space on each experience, and as such, you may not get your first choice. Please rank all issues of focus in order of preference (1=most interested, etc.) that you would like to be considered for.

____ Atlanta, Georgia, January 17th-20th, 2020
____ Zakynthos, Greece, May 12th-June 2nd, 2020
____ Hawai’i, May 14th-24th, 2020

Personal Information
Name: ___________________________________   Preferred Name:________________________
CWID #:    ________________________________    Email: ________________________________
Phone:___________________________________  Pronouns: _____________________________
Class year: _____________________________        Major:________________________________

Have you been on an Alternative Break trip in the past? Yes/No

Questions
Please answer the following questions on a separate page. We are looking for serious, thoughtful answers. Your responses will be the basis for an interview and/or your selection in an Alternative Break trip.

For MLK Participants Only:
1. Why are you interested in participating in Alternative Break? What expectations do you have?
2. Describe a volunteer/learning experience that was meaningful to you.
3. What extracurricular activities are you involved in, and how do they engage your academics/life?
4. What drew you specifically to the MLK weekend experience?

For Maymester Participants Only:
1. Why are you interested in participating in Alternative Break? What expectations do you have?
2. What drew you specifically to the trip(s) you are applying to?
3. Describe a volunteer/learning experience that was meaningful to you.
4. What extracurricular activities are you involved in, and how do they engage your academics/life?
5. In a group or team setting, what role do you typically take? (Leader, Realist, Empathizer, Problem Solver, etc.)
6. In your opinion, what role do active citizens play in a community?
7. For Greece applicants: Considering that sustainable tourism and marine life rehabilitation are issues in Greece and in Charleston, how can you compare and contrast the differences between both places? How would you take what you learn in Greece, to educate and improve similar issues in Charleston?
8. For Hawai’i applicants: How might cultural and ancestral ties to land and resources be negatively impacted by colonialism?
9. Alternative Break is committed to making these experiences as accessible as possible. Are you planning on applying for one of our need-based scholarships?

The Alternative Break program and the Center for Civic Engagement are committed to providing access for all people with disabilities. Please contact Stephanie Visser at vissers@cofc.edu for more information.
Maymester Applicant Interview Time Chart

Please put an X next to **ALL** the times you can be available for an interview on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Your interview time and location will be sent to the email you provided above.

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Questions? Email volunteer@cofc.edu
Please attach your responses and submit your application to the:
Center for Civic Engagement, Lightsey Room 203

**Application Due By: Tuesday, November 12th at 5:00pm**

**Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for an interview by midnight on November 14th**
Alternative Break: Martin Luther King Day Weekend in Atlanta, GA
January 17-January 20, 2020
$25* this cost includes all lodging, meals, and transportation

Our Trip
Over MLK weekend, participants will travel to Atlanta, Georgia--the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The aim of this trip will be to learn about Dr. King’s philosophies during the Civil Rights movement as well as to actively fight against the evils that prevent communities from living in unity and harmony. Participants will be volunteering with New American Pathways, a refugee resettlement and support organization, and Safe House, a shelter and support system for individuals experiencing homelessness. Visits to Dr. King’s birthplace and the Center for Human and Civil Rights will provide opportunities for more cultural context and knowledge surrounding the issues the participants will address.

Alternative Break MLK Timeline

November 12th
Applications due at midnight. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for an interview by midnight on November 14th.

November 15th-17th Interviews

November 19th Participants notified of selection

November 21st All participant meeting, 5-6pm

January 9th All participant meeting, 4-6pm

January 16th All participant meeting, 4-6pm

January 17th-20th Trip to Atlanta, GA

TBD Reorientation
Wildlife Rehabilitation & Sustainable Tourism in Zakynthos, Greece

Zakynthos is the third largest of the Ionian Islands, located to the west of mainland Greece. The natural beauty of Zakynthos attracts many tourists during the summer. This has created issues such as increased population, traffic, pollution, noise, and increased waste. Although tourism is more profitable than traditional industries, its exploitation is detrimental to the countryside and wildlife. There are large amounts of litter being dumped on beaches and in the forests, and hunting is endangering migrating birds. The Loggerhead Sea Turtle and Mediterranean Monk Seal’s habitats are steadily declining, as people and development impede on their habitats.

Earth, Sea & Sky (Ionian Nature Conservation)

Earth, Sea & Sky registered as a non-government organization in 1999, to protect the unique flora and fauna of the island. Past emphasis has been on the beaches and caring for the Loggerhead turtle, since Zakynthos is their most important nesting area in the Mediterranean, but their aim is to protect the natural habitats of all wildlife within the National Marine Park of Zakynthos. Earth, Sea & Sky promotes “conservation by education.” Guests are provided with one-to-one information sessions. An estimated 50,000-75,000 visitors from all over the world come to the center each summer.

Our Trip

The aim of our experience is to show how conservation and sustainable tourism can work together to benefit tourists, the locals, and wildlife. Volunteers will research and record the effects of tourism on the local environment, provide information on the local flora and fauna to visitors, rescue injured animals, and participate in beach and forest clean-ups. Volunteers will also monitor the nesting of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle. Participants will have the opportunity to experience Greek culture first hand on this beautiful island as well as in other parts of Greece during the third week of the program.

Alternative Break: Hawai’i

Hawai’i, the most recent state to join the union, is known as one of the world’s most beautiful locations. Rich with a unique culture, Hawai’i sits in the Pacific ocean, and is known as the most isolated population center in the world. The archipelago of Hawai’i consists of 137 islands, spanning over approximately 1500 miles. Its rich soil and ideal geographic location makes it suitable to grow a variety of crops, such as bananas, papaya, taro, pineapple, and sugar cane.

Western Influence on Native Hawaiian culture

The Kingdom of Hawai’i was a sovereign nation from 1810-1893. American and European landowners overthrew the monarchy in 1893, and Hawai’i became a state in 1959. Western influence and colonialism has shaped the identity of Hawai’i to what it is today. Although the tourism industry spurred by American travel has made the economy of Hawai’i very strong in many capacities, there have been many unintended consequences related to this Western influence. For example, Hawai’i has the highest rate of homelessness in the nation, with 46 out of every 10,000 residents experiencing homeless. Commercial development in Hawai’i has taken its toll on ancient land that was once used for farming important traditional crops, and is now often used for stripmalls and movie theatre. This development has spurred many movements in Hawai’i relating to keeping rural lands rural, creating affordable housing, and a return to ancestral practice.
Our trip
The aim of this Alternative Maymester experience is to educate students on the impacts of western influence and colonialism on native Hawaiian culture and practices. Options for service include working on Reppun Farm—a sustainable farm working to bring back native Hawaiian agriculture practices—or working with Habitat for Humanity to help build affordable housing. Throughout the trip, we will be participating in discussions surrounding the unintended consequences of colonization and how it relates to modern-day gentrification, white-washing, unsustainable tourism, homelessness, drug use, and poverty.

Alternative Break Maymester Timeline

November 12th
Applications due at midnight. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for an interview by midnight on November 14th.

November 15th-17th Interviews

November 19th Participants notified of selection

November 21st All participant meeting; Payment due

January 16th All participant meeting 4-6pm; Payment due

January 30th All participant meeting from 4-6pm

February 6th All participant meeting 4-6pm; Payment due

February 13th All participant meeting 4-6pm

February 20th All participant meeting 4-6pm; Payment due

March 7th Pre-Service

March 26th All participant meeting 4-6pm; Payment due

April 2nd All participant meeting 4-6pm

April 9th All participant meeting 4-6pm; Final payment due

April 16th All participant meeting 4-6pm

April 30th All participant meeting 5-7pm

May 12th-14th Trips Depart