Alternative Spring Break 2017 Participant Application

DEADLINE: Tuesday, December 1st, 2016 @ 5pm

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

$15 non-refundable application fee is due upon submission.

** Application fees go toward Alternative Break scholarships available for Fall Break and Spring Break Participants

** Check or cash is acceptable. Make checks payable to “College of Charleston – Alternative Break.”

** For concerns regarding the application fee, please email Christopher Ciarcia at ciarcic@cofc.edu

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A note on Alternative Break scholarships: A limited amount of scholarships are available for participants. Scholarship amounts vary based on number of applicants. For more information, please contact Christopher Ciarcia, Associate Director of the Center for Civic Engagement, at ciarcic@cofc.edu.

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

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Issues of Focus

Cultivating Common Ground: Environmental Justice and Mindfulness

Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center | Washburn, TN | $300

This weeklong experiential learning opportunity 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.

Constructing Relationships and Building Compassion: Affordable and Sustainable Housing

Habitat for Humanity | Charlotte, NC | $300

This experience in will address the nation’s housing crisis through education, direct service, and reflection. Housing insecurity is a very relevant issue in our country, as nearly 19 million low-income houses in the US have to pay over half of their income on housing. By partnering with Habitat for Humanity, we will gain a greater understanding of the housing crisis through participating in home construction as well as attending the organizations provided educational programing.
You are What You Eat, Let’s Learn More About It: Permaculture and Sustainable Living
Plentiud Iniciativas | Las Marias, Puerto Rico | $900
The objective of this AB experience is to become more educated about permaculture design through hands-on work, conceptual learning, and community service. Permaculture is the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient. By practicing permaculture, we are also promoting the importance of sustainable living. During this experience participants will engage in workshops and projects that range from urban food production and natural building to ecologically responsible water management and rainwater collection. While working with Plentiud Iniciativas, housing arrangements will be provided at their teaching center.

Stop the Traffic Jam: Combating Human Trafficking in America
Life of Freedom Center | Miami, FL | $600
Did you know that every state in the US has reported cases of human trafficking? Many Americans do not think of human trafficking as being this close to home, making more education surrounding the issue crucial in finding solutions. This week-long Alternative Break experience provides participants with a window into the world of human trafficking and sex exploitation. Participants will attend several education sessions and trainings on how to identify and interact with victims of human trafficking.
Important Dates

Attendance is mandatory for listed dates.

December

Thursday, December 1st  
Applications due to the CCE by 5pm

Friday, December 2nd  
All participants notified of selection

Tuesday, December 6th  
First Education, Orientation and Training (EOT) meeting; 25% of trip cost due  
5:30-7:30 pm

January

Tuesday, January 17th  
All-participant meeting; 25% of trip cost due  
5:30-7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 24th  
EOT meeting #2  
5:30-7:00 pm

February

Saturday, February 4th  
Pre-service day  
Time TBA

Tuesday, February 7th  
All-participant meeting; 25% of trip cost due  
5:30-7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 21st  
EOT meeting #3; final trip cost due  
5:30-7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 28th  
Send off Meeting  
5:30-7:00 pm

March

Saturday March 4th - Saturday March 11th  
ALTERNATIVE BREAK!!

Tuesday, March 21st  
Return & Reflect  
5:30-7:00 pm

Saturday, March 25th  
Post-service day  
Time TBA
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.
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Alternative Break Rankings:

Note: Please note there is limited space on each Alternative Break 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.).

| | Environmental Justice and Mindfulness |
| | Sustainable and Affordable Housing |
| | Permaculture and Sustainable Living |
| | Combating Human Trafficking in America |
Essay Questions: Please answer all questions on a separate sheet of paper.

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. What do you hope to gain out of your experience with Alternative Break?

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 experience, etc.)