Maymester Participant Application
$35 Nonrefundable fee due with application
______ Zakynthos, Greece, May 24- June 14 2016
______ Las Marias, Puerto Rico, May 16 – June 3 2016

Participant Selection
Participants are selected by the trip leaders based on the responses you give to the questions below. As the process is name-blind, this sheet with your name will be removed before leaders see your application. Once selected, we’ll match your name to your application to contact you.

Name: ___________________________________
ID #: _________________________________
Email: _______________________________
Phone:_______________________________

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 Maymester participant. I will attend ALL mandatory events, including all group meetings.

Signature: ___________________________________________ Date:__________

POLICIES:
Maymester participants are required to follow all Alternative Break and College of Charleston policies before, during, and after their trip at any event. 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 EVALUATIONS
All Maymester 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 Alternative Break – Maymester will make payments to go on their trip. These payments are a sign of commitment to the program and will not be refunded. If a participant has to drop out for any reason, all of their previously contributed money is non-refundable. In addition, if a flight has been purchased in your name you are responsible for the entire cost of that ticket. A hold will be placed on your account until full payment is received. By signing this statement, I am signifying that I understand the Alternative Break non-refundable payment policy.

Signature: ___________________________________________ Date:__________
Participant Application: Questions

Personal Information
Class year: _______________
Gender: _________________
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 your selection in an Alternative Break trip.

1) Why are you interested in participating in Alternative Maymester Break? What expectations do you have?
2) Describe a volunteer experience that was meaningful to you.
3) What extracurricular activities are you involved in?
4) What do you hope to gain from the Alternative Break experience?
5) 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?
6) For Puerto Rico applicants: What are some ways in which you could practice a more sustainable lifestyle? Why do you think it is important to practice sustainability?
7) Please provide any additional information that you think we would find useful during the selection process. (ex: languages spoken, previous relevant volunteer experience, etc.)
8) Are you intending to apply for a scholarship? If so, are you willing to organize a fundraiser?
9) Please put an X next to all the times when you are available for an interview on Tuesday and Wednesday. 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 and deposit to the:
Center for Civic Engagement, Lightsey Room 203
By: Monday, November 16th at Noon
**Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for an interview by midnight that day**
Zakynthos, Greece
Zakynthos is the third largest of the Ionian Islands, located to the west of mainland Greece. The mild climate allows for the growing of olives, currants, and various citrus fruits. Upon arrival, visitors will be able to experience a panoramic view of the ocean and mountainous terrain on the west side of the island, and fertile plain in the southeast.

Wildlife Rehabilitation & Sustainable Tourism
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 declining, and people and development impede on their habitats. Earth, Sea & Sky works to promote eco-tourism so locals and tourists can reduce their impact on the environment.

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. However, their primary concern is to protect the natural habitats of all wildlife within the National Marine Park of Zakynthos. Earth, Sea & Sky provide the only Wildlife Information Centre where they promote their belief in “conservation by education.” Guests are provided with one-to-one information sessions as well as educational and creative workshops for children and adults. In addition, guests can take nature walks and guided boat tours that provide a first-hand look of the local wildlife and habitats. An estimated 40,000 visitors from all over the world come to the centre each summer.

Our Trip
The aim of our service project is to show how conservation and sustainable tourism can work together to benefit tourists, the locals, and wildlife. Volunteers will research and record the affects 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 cleans. Volunteers will also monitor the nesting and population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle and the Mediterranean Monk Seal. While volunteering, participants will learn the basic care and maintenance of aquatic, marine, and reptilian animals at the Wildlife Information Centre. Accommodations include shared cottages. Each cottage has a generous size living-dining area, with a sofa bed, coffee table, TV, dining table and chairs. There is a small kitchen and patio with outdoor seating which will allow for group meals prepared by the participants. Participants will have the opportunity to experience Greek culture first hand on this beautiful island as the center of town is nearby, and can be explored by the group during down time. During the last week of the trip, participants will travel to Santorini and Athens, Greece. While there participants will spend a few travel days exploring the beautiful island of Santorini and the history of Athens.
Alternative Break Greece Timeline

November 16th
Applications due at noon. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for an interview by midnight.

November 17th and 18th
Interviews on 17th from 3-5pm and 8-10pm
Interviews on 18th from 4-10pm

November 19th
Participants notified of selection

December 6th
All participant meeting 3-6pm

December 8th
$545 payment due

January 13th
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
$545 payment due

January 27th
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

February 3rd
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
$545 payment due

February 10th
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

February 24th
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

March 9th
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
$545 payment due

March 16th
Return and Reflect/ All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

March 23rd
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
$545 payment due

April 6th
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

April 9th
Pre-Trip Service

April 20th
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
Final Payment

May 23rd
Pre-departure extravaganza 4:00-6pm

May 24th - June 14th
Maymester Greece

Early Fall Semester
Reorientation
Alternative Break: Las Marias, Puerto Rico

May 16 ~ June 3 2016
$2,220 * this cost includes all meals, lodging & airfare

Las Marias, Puerto Rico
Las Marias is a municipality located on the mountainous, Western side of Puerto Rico. Nicknamed “La Ciudad de los Citricos” or Citrus City, as most of their local agriculture is focused on citrus production. In addition, the local agriculture includes bananas and coffee. With a population of about 10,000, Las Marías is full of culture, warm weather, and beautiful views.

Permaculture and Sustainable Living
Permaculture is the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient. The ultimate purpose of permaculture is to develop a site that will meet the needs of its inhabitants by providing food, shelter, fuel and entertainment. Not only is permaculture important for environmental sustainability, but it also helps foster close relations amongst community members. In this way, permaculture serves to create long-term community development, for people, plants, animals, and the abiotic environment.

Sustainable living is a lifestyle that attempts to reduce an individual’s use of natural resources. Practicing sustainable living involves attempting to reduce your carbon footprint by altering methods of energy consumption, diet, and transportation.

Plentiud Iniciativas, Puerto Rico
Plentiud Iniciativas is a non-profit educational farm and learning center that focuses on the research, demonstration, and dissemination of sustainable practices for today’s rural and urban environment. Plentiud offers training and information on a wide variety of permaculture practices, including: agroforestry; rainwater harvesting; urban food production; animal husbandry; food processing and storage for value added products and food security.

Plentiud Iniciativas engages local and international students, researchers, and farmers in an effort to select, investigate, and refine appropriate technologies and practices. The results of these collaborations are disseminated through workshops, internships, and seminars at the Teaching Center in Las Marías, Puerto Rico as well as in partnerships with various outreach sites in surrounding communities.

Our Trip
The objective of this service project is to become more educated on permaculture design through hands-on work with conceptual learning and community service. Participants will engage in workshops and projects that range from urban food production, compost, soil biology, and soil conservation, to agroforestry design. While staying at Plentiud Iniciativas housing arrangements will be provided at their teaching center, located at the farm “Finca Tres Amigos”, in the mountain highlands of Las Marias, Puerto Rico. Participants will sleep in tents in a roofed camping site, and utilize the showers, bathrooms, and eating/kitchen area provided. In addition, Plentiud Iniciativas will provide 3 freshly cooked vegetarian meals daily (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). After our time in Las Marias, we will spend a few days in the beautiful city of San Juan, staying at the Palace Hostel. While in San Juan participants will explore Old San Juan, Castillo San Felipe del Morro, and the local beaches. In addition, participants will spend a day exploring El Yunque National Forest, the only tropical rain forest in the United States National Forest System.
**Alternative Break Puerto Rico Timeline**

**November 16th**
Applications due at noon. Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for an interview by midnight.

**November 17th and 18th**
- Interviews on 17th from 3-5pm and 8-10pm
- Interviews on 18th from 4-10pm

**November 19th**
Participants notified of selection

**December 6th**
All participant meeting 3-6pm

**December 8th**
$370 payment due

**January 13th**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
$370 payment due

**January 27th**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

**February 3rd**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
$370 payment due

**February 10th**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

**February 24th**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

**March 9th**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
$370 payment due

**March 16th**
Return and Reflect/ All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

**March 23rd**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
$370 payment due

**April 6th**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm

**April 9th**
Pre-Trip Service

**April 20th**
All participant meeting 5:00-7pm
Final Payment

**May 15th**
Pre-departure extravaganza 4-6pm

**May 16th – June 3rd**
Maymester Puerto Rico

**Early Fall Semester**
Reorientation