



COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

ALTERNATIVE BREAK

Alternative Break 2024 Application

DUE: Sunday, November 26th at noon

TO: Center for Civic Engagement (Lightsey 203)

or: vissers@cofc.edu

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.

Please read the statements below carefully and seriously. My signature shows that I understand and agree to the following terms and conditions of my participation in the Alternative Break Program (the "Program") with the Center for Civic Engagement (the "CCE").

COMMITMENT:

Being an Alternative Break participant requires time, energy, and commitment. I agree to invest that time, energy and commitment if selected to be a participant. **I will attend ALL mandatory events, including all group meetings.**

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. I agree to follow and uphold Alternative Break and College of Charleston policies to the best of my abilities.

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 agree to participate in all surveys and evaluations, and to give honest feedback.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

- I am responsible to pay the fee for the trip for which I have been selected in such installments as directed by the CCE.
- The CCE will use my installment payments for a portion of the prepaid expenses of my trip, including, but not limited to, those for airfare, housing, program fees, transportation, and administrative fees. However, the total cost of the trip is subsidized by the CCE and, therefore, the prepaid expenses associated with my participation may be significantly higher than the fee paid by me.
- When payments of prepaid expenses are made to vendors, those expenses become nonrecoverable.
- If I choose not to participate in the trip, I will be obligated to reimburse the CCE for all nonrecoverable expenses which, at the time of my withdrawal, have been advanced by the CCE on account of my participation.
- Any portion of the fee I have already paid at the time of my withdrawal may be held by the CCE to offset the amount which I owe for nonrecoverable expenses.
- 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: Zakynthos, Greece, May 14th-June 4th, 2024

Please provide your personal information and answers to the below questions on a separate page

Personal Information

Name _____ Preferred Name _____
CWID # _____ Email _____
Phone _____ Pronouns _____
Class year _____ Major/Minor _____

Questions

Please answer the following questions on a separate page. *We are looking for intentional answers that share more about who you are and your passion for change. Your responses will be the basis for interview selection.*

1. Why are you interested in participating in Alternative Break? What expectations do you have? What do you hope to gain from participating in the experience.
2. What drew you specifically to AB Greece?
3. Reflect on 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. What does community mean to you?
7. In your opinion, what role do active citizens play in a community?
8. Considering that mass 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 inform others about similar issues in Charleston?
9. Are you available 4-6pm on Tuesdays for the spring semester?
10. Alternative Break is committed to making these experiences as accessible as possible. Are you planning on applying for one of our need-based scholarships?

Maymester Applicant Interview Time Chart

Please put an X next to **ALL** the times you can be available for an interview. Your interview time and location will be sent to the email you provide.

Times	Tuesday November 28th	Wednesday November 29th
12:15pm-12:45pm		
12:45pm-1:15pm		
1:15pm-1:45pm		
3:30pm-4:00pm		
4:00pm-4:30pm		
4:30pm-5:00pm		
5:00pm-5:30pm		
5:30pm-6:00pm		
6:00pm-6:30pm		
6:30pm-7:00pm		
7:00pm-7:30pm		
7:30pm-8:00pm		
8:00pm-8:30pm		
8:30pm-9:00pm		
9:00pm-9:30pm		

*****Applicants selected for an interview will be notified by 10am on November 27th*****
If you are selected to participate, the first mandatory meeting will be Sunday, December 3rd

Alternative Break: Zakynthos, Greece | May 14- June 4, 2024

\$3,250 This cost includes all meals, lodging & airfare

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.

Mediterranean Marine Life Center

Registered as a non-government organization since 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. MMLC promotes "conservation by education." Guests are provided with one-to-one information sessions. An estimated 100,000 visitors from all over the world come to the center each summer.

Our Trip

The aim of our experience is to show the impacts of mass tourism and how conservation and sustainable tourism can work together to benefit tourists, the locals, and wildlife. The trip encourages students to live simply, with an emphasis on wellness, and reflect on their participation in problematic systems. 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 Maymester Timeline: All Meetings are Mandatory

December 3rd	All participant meeting 4-6pm
January 16th	All participant meeting 4-6pm
January 30th	All participant meeting 4-6pm
February 6th	All participant meeting 4-6pm
February 13th	All participant meeting 4-6pm
February 20th	All participant meeting 4-6pm
Pre-Service	TBD
March 26th	All participant meeting 4-6pm
April 2nd	All participant meeting 4-6pm
April 9th	All participant meeting 4-6pm
April 16th	All participant meeting 4-6pm
April 25th	Final Meeting on Reading Day (time TBD)
May 13th	Pre-Departure Logistics (time TBD)