



**2011-2012 Alternative Breaks
Faculty/Staff Statement of Interest**

Alternative Breaks Mission Statement:

Xavier University's Alternative Breaks Club empowers and challenges all involved to understanding his or her relationship with the global community through direct service, education, and reflection, while encouraging personal growth, social awareness, and active citizenship.

Name:	Banner ID:
Local Mailing Address:	
Email:	Local/Cell Phone:
University Position:	Alternative Break Shirt Size: S M L XL

On these Alternative Breaks trips, faculty and staff serve a pivotal role in the experience. However, this role may be different from previous experiences with students because while you will serve as a source of experience, it is ultimately the student Site Leaders that are in charge of planning meetings and reflections. The faculty/staff member serves not as a "trip leader" but as an active trip participant for the purpose of:

- * Adding educational value to the trip by contributing their life and professional perspective.
- * Being a "mature influence" to encourage students to make wise decisions.
- * Acting as a resource for trip leaders by providing advice and/or support.
- * Building relationships with student trip leaders and participants while in a non-traditional role.

Please Respond to the Following OPEN RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

1. In the spirit of the above position description, please list any similar experience you may have had with students.
2. Write a brief personal statement explaining why you want to be a part of the Alternative Breaks program.
3. Describe what you are most excited for if given the opportunity to partake in Alternative Breaks this year.

Please return the first 6 pages of this packet along with a copy of your open response questions by Tuesday, October 18th at 5:00pm in the Center for Faith and Justice, Room 310 of the Gallagher Student Center.

An information session will be held Thursday, September 22nd at 12pm, in the Clocktower Lounge of Gallagher Student Center for all interested in learning more.

Contact Julie Tritschler with questions, tritschlerj@xavier.edu or (513) 515-1601.

Trip Preferences

The Alternative Breaks Club Board does their best to place as many students as possible on trips in which they are most interested to participate. To facilitate this process, please consider the following scale, and use the numbers to rate each of this year's trips accordingly. *Note: All trips are tentative and subject to change.*

Scale

- 1 - I would be Excited, Eager, Elated, Euphoric, Enthused and MORE to go on this trip
- 2 - I would be Excited and Eager to go on this trip (but a little less than number 1)
- 3 - I would be Happy to go on this trip
- 4 - I would go on this trip if my other choices are full
- 5 - I don't want to be considered for this trip (please include any trip(s) you have previously participated in, since you are ineligible to return to the same *site* twice)

Please consider your level of interest for each trip **individually**. Assign EACH trip a number based on the above scale. Place a number by all 25 trips.*

SPRING TRIPS

- ___ The Affects of Gangs: Albany, NY
- ___ Building for Tornado Relief: Athens, AL
- ___ Refugee Resettlement in a Metropolitan Area: Atlanta, GA
- ___ Going Green in the City: Austin, TX
- ___ The Many Layers of Issues in Hunger and Homelessness: Baltimore, MD
- ___ Conservation of Our Native Ecosystems: Catalina Island, CA
- ___ Uphill Both Ways: Elderly Living in America: Charlotte, NC
- ___ Finding Justice in the Prison System: Chicago, IL
- ___ The Contrast of Inner- and Outer-City Education: Cincinnati, OH
- ___ Restoration and Conservation in our National Parks: Florida City, FL
- ___ Adult Disabilities: Mobile, AL
- ___ MYSTERY TRIP: Supersized- Food Issues in America: Somewhere, USA
- ___ The Inaccessibility of Communities: Nashville, TN
- ___ Rebuilding the Heart of the Gulf Coast: New Orleans, LA
- ___ Exploring the Roots of our Nation: Pine Ridge Reservation, SD
- ___ The Invisible American: San Diego, CA
- ___ The Rights and Protection of All People: LGBTQ Issues: San Francisco, CA
- ___ Appalachian Cultures and Sustainable Living: Spencer, WV
- ___ Factory Farming: The Rights and Welfare of Farm Animals: Watkins Glen, NY
- ___ Substance Abuse: Prevention and Treatment Education: Wellington, CO
- ___ Education and Community Outreach: Guatemala City, Guatemala**
- ___ Community Development: Hagley Gap, Jamaica**

Dates of Trips:

Spring Break: March 3rd- 10th

Summer Break:

West Virginia: May 6th - 12th

New Jersey: May 7th-14th

El Salvador: May 7th - 18th

*If you fail to rank trips, we will rank for you

**If applying for an international trip please apply for a passport

***Seniors are not eligible for summer trips.

******Accommodations will be made**

for participants with disabilities,

contact Julie Tritschler

(tritschlerj@xavier.edu) for details.

SUMMER TRIPS

- ___ Appalachian Cultures and Sustainable Living: Spencer, WV (DATES: MAY 6th - MAY 12th)
- ___ A Glimpse into the Life of Low Income Inner-City Youth: West Milford, NJ (DATES: MAY 7th - MAY 14th)
- ___ What Does It Take to Sustain a Community?: San Salvador, El Salvador** (DATES: MAY 7th - MAY 18th)

Alcohol and Illegal Drug Policy

Alternative Breaks has a “no alcohol or illegal drugs*” policy. **This prohibits being under the influence of or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs* during any Alternative breaks sponsored activity including, but not limited to: pre-break meetings, Alternative breaks group activities, group fundraisers, travel to and from Alternative Breaks sites, and for the duration of Alternative Breaks trips.** This policy also includes the purchase of alcohol or illegal drugs*, with or without consumption, during Alternative Breaks trips. Drinking or use of illegal drugs* during the break represents a major liability to yourself, your fellow participants, the AB program, and Xavier University, and is inappropriate while dealing with the social issues of Alternative Breaks sites. Support of this policy by all involved is essential to a safe and socially aware Alternative Break.

Violation of this policy will result in participants leaving their Alternative Breaks trip and returning home at their own expense. No refunds will be awarded. In addition, and miscellaneous travel expenses already purchased in the participant’s name must be paid in full. Violators of this policy may be restricted from further participation in Alternative Breaks activities or trips. Participants will also be held in violation of any University policies regarding alcohol or illegal drug use.

**Illegal drugs are defined as drugs that are illegal within the United States and/or the country in which you are.*

I agree to follow the guidelines and policies of Alternative Breaks as outlined above, and as they will be further explained throughout my involvement during the 2011-2012 school year.

Name (Printed)

Signature

Date

Alternative Breaks Club Fundraising Agreement

The Alternative Breaks Club strives to provide low-cost service trips to students. In order to keep these participant costs affordable for students, fundraising is a *necessary* and *vital* part of the Alternative Breaks program. In order to accommodate the responsibility of fundraising and distribute it fairly, we have come up with a sliding scale for the cost of all trips. (Financial assistance applications are available for participant payment, but not for fundraising).

	Type of Trip	Personal Payment*	Group Fundraising
Category A	Domestic, Driving	\$200	\$2,500
Category B	Domestic, Flying	\$300	\$3,000
Category C	International	\$400	\$4,000

Category A	Category B	Category C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Albany, NY ▪ Athens, AL ▪ Atlanta, GA ▪ Baltimore, MD ▪ Charlotte, NC ▪ Chicago, IL ▪ Cincinnati, OH ▪ Mobile, AL ▪ Mystery, USA ▪ Nashville, TN ▪ New Orleans, LA ▪ Watkins Glen, NY ▪ West Milford, NJ ▪ Spencer, West Virginia -Spring ▪ Spencer, West Virginia - Summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austin, TX ▪ Catalina Island ▪ Colorado ▪ Florida ▪ San Diego ▪ San Francisco ▪ South Dakota 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ El Salvador ▪ Guatemala ▪ Jamaica

The Alternative Breaks Board and your Site Leaders will provide all information, materials, and resources you need to succeed in fundraising.

If I am chosen to participate in an Alternative Break trip during the 2011-2012 school year, I understand, and agree to the following:

- Be responsible for my participant payment and personal fundraising
- Work with my group to organize and carry out any small group fundraising that is required.
- Complete at least one fundraiser before the end of the fall semester if the trip I am going on is a Category C (International) trip.
- Optional participation in the large group fundraisers planned by the Alternative Break Board.
- Turn in all payments on time.
- Once accepted to a trip, **if I cannot attend for any reason, I am still responsible to purchase the plane ticket if Alternative Breaks has already purchased it in my name.**
- Once accepted to a trip **I am responsible for my participant payment and meeting the fundraising goals** (unless I leave a trip by December 9, 2011.) If for any reason my group does not reach our fundraising goal or I am late on participant payments I realize I still owe Alternative Breaks this money and I will pay the designated amount.

Name (Printed)

Signature

Date

Alternative Breaks Policy List – Participants

- All members of the group are required to regularly attend weekly meetings **BEFORE AND AFTER** the trip - groups must decide on a time that most group members can make, including considerations for faculty/staff members. Times before 8pm are **HIGHLY** encouraged.
- All students are required to fully participate in fundraising efforts for Alternative Breaks as a whole. Each trip must reach their goal, as set by Alternative Breaks Board. Funds raised may not go directly toward that trip but are necessary for the function of AB as a whole. If a group does not reach their goal, they will have to pay the difference.
- All participants and site leaders on a Category C (International) trip are required to complete one group fundraiser before the end of the Fall Semester.
- No participant/Site Leader/faculty-staff is permitted to leave the group by him/herself at any time during the trip.
- No romantic relationships of any kind will be permitted during the trip.
- Significant others and siblings are not permitted to go on the same trip. If this happens, notify Board immediately.
- All members of the group must complete all legs of travel with the group as a whole. No member is to join or depart from the group at any location other than Xavier.
- No groups will be permitted to drive through the night to or from their destination.
- The location of the Mystery Trip will not be disclosed to anyone - no Site Leader, participant, nor their parents, will be informed of the location.
- Other rules for the group must be decided by the group **AS A WHOLE** - such as those involving cell phone usage, internet usage, music, day off, confidentiality and other group dynamic issues. (Site Coordinators are allowed some input and Site Leaders should consider monetary limitations).
- All group members are required to obey the rules set by their site, especially those involving exchange of contact information and privacy issues.
- All group members (excluding faculty/staff) are required to send out 12 Adopt-A-Breaker letters.
- Costs for checked luggage (excluding food and donations, as necessary) will be covered by the individual participant.
- No money for participant payments will be refunded after the drop-off date of December 9th, 2011 for any reason.
- For flying trips - if a participant drops off the trip, for any reason, after the drop off date of December 9th, 2011, he/she will reimburse Alternative Breaks for the cost of his/her plane ticket, if it has already been purchased.
- No purchasing or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs is permitted by any group member, even if it is permitted at the site, or if he/she is of age. Violation of this policy will result in immediate expulsion from the trip. Travel costs back to Cincinnati will be covered by the participant.
- No one is permitted to go to the same service site twice.

As a participant for the 2011-2012 school year, I have read and understand the policies and guidelines of Alternative Breaks as outlined above and I agree to follow such policies. I understand that failure to comply with any of the above stated policies may result in my dismissal from Alternative Breaks.

Name (Printed)

Signature

Date



2011-2012 Alternative Breaks Faculty/Staff Supervisor Approval Form

Alternative Breaks Mission Statement:

Xavier University's Alternative Breaks Club empowers and challenges all involved to understanding his or her relationship with the global community through direct service, education, and reflection, while encouraging personal growth, social awareness, and active citizenship.

Please complete and return this form by **Tuesday, October 18th 2011** to Alternative Breaks, Center for Faith and Justice, GSC Room 310.

This commitment will require the faculty/staff member to attend, at minimum, five AB group meetings before the actual trip. The trip will consist of the faculty/staff member travelling with AB **March 3rd - 10th**, **May 6th - 12th**, **May 7th - 14th**, or **May 7th - 18th**.

_____ (faculty/staff applicant) is approved to participate in the 2011-2012 Alternative Break program.

Supervisor's Signature _____

Supervisor's Position _____

Tentative Trip Descriptions 2011 - 2012

Spring Break:

1. Exploring the Roots of our Nation

Where: Pine Ridge, SD

With Whom: Re-Member

Participants will gain a better insight into the lives of the Oglala Lakota people living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation through learning of their culture and history as well as interacting with members of the tribe. Service will focus on construction, maintenance, and building projects throughout the poverty stricken reservation.

2. Uphill Both Ways: Elderly Living in America

Where: Charlotte, NC

With Whom: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Rehabilitation Center

Participants will have the opportunity to interact with the elderly participating in the Senior Games program offered through the Department of Social Services at several nutrition sites throughout Charlotte. Participants will also volunteer at a nursing home socializing with the elderly while playing games and assisting with other social activities.

3. Building for Tornado Relief

Where: Athens, AL

With Whom: First Presbyterian Church of Athens

Participants will work to rebuild the areas of Northern Alabama overwhelmingly struck by the tornadoes of April 2011. Service will include debris removal and general clean-up of the region as well as construction and rebuilding of affected areas.

4. Going Green in the City

Where: Austin, TX

With Whom: Green Gate Farms

Participants will work at Green Gate Farms, an urban farm dedicated to providing community-supported agriculture in urban Austin. In addition to daily farm work, participants will have the opportunity to learn about other green initiatives in Austin, such as urban beekeeping and learning about Austin's recycling system.

5. Community Development

Where: Hagley Gap, Jamaica

With Whom: Blue Mountain Project

Participants will work with the Blue Mountain Project, an organization dedicated to providing medical care and basic services to the people of Hagley Gap. Participants will have the opportunity to work in both the local schools and medical clinic during their stay, as well as visit local sustainability projects such as a fruit farm. This trip places a strong emphasis on community interaction, and participants will have the opportunity to stay and eat with local families.

6. Factory Farming: The Rights and Welfare of Farm Animals

Where: Watkins Glen, NY

With Whom: Farm Sanctuary

Participants will work at Farm Sanctuary, an organization dedicated to rescuing animals from factory farms and providing them with a life free from suffering and abuse. Participants will help with daily farm work and animal care, as well as work on improvement projects throughout the farm. This trip will also feature several educational programs, allow time for getting to know the animals, and requires all participants to live a vegan lifestyle while on the trip.

7. Conservation of Our Native Ecosystems

Where: Catalina Island, CA

With whom: Catalina Island Conservatory

Volunteers will engage in various ecological projects such as removing non-invasive plant species, securing the habitat for native animals, and maintaining hiking trails and other conservatory-operated facilities. During the trip volunteers will learn firsthand about protecting their environment by living on a camp at the conservatory.

8. The Many Layers of Issues in Hunger and Homelessness

Where: Baltimore, MD

With whom: Catholic Charities

Volunteers will work with Catholic Charities of Baltimore. They will be working with various volunteer organizations such as food pantries, shelters, education programs, and housing services. The volunteers will learn about homelessness through interaction with the homeless population in urban Baltimore.

9. The Rights and Protection of All People: LGBTQ Issues

Where: San Francisco, CA With whom: TBA

Volunteers will work with LGBTQ community centers and activism organizations. Through talking with community members the volunteers will get a well-rounded look at all the issues facing the LGBTQ community in both San Francisco and the world.

10. Education and Community Outreach

Where: Guatemala City, Guatemala With Whom: Service for Peace

Participants will work in poor urban or rural indigenous Mayan communities building, painting, gardening, remodeling, and cleaning elementary schools or libraries. They will also be working with children to promote environmental sustainability and community development.

11. Finding Justice in the Prison System

Where: Chicago, IL With Whom: St. Leonard's

Participants will work and learn about the prison system alongside men in a halfway house. A day will also be spent with women in their halfway house. An immersion experience in a prison will also educate participants about the realities of prison life.

12. Substance Abuse: Prevention and Treatment Education

Where: Wellington, CO With Whom: Harvest Farm

Students will explore the issue of substance abuse and the effect that it has on communities and families. Participants will labor on a rehabilitation farm, performing tasks with the men that live there. Harvest Farm focuses on community outreach, prevention, and treatments (both long-term and short-term).

13. The Affects of Gangs

Where: Albany, NY With Whom: New York State Gang Prevention

Students will work with NY State Gang Prevention to learn about gang violence issues in inner city Albany. Projects will include working in community centers and shelters and participants will have the opportunity to accompany police cruisers. Students will also have the opportunity to learn from leading gang prevention specialists.

14. MYSTERY TRIP- Supersized: Food Issues in America

Where: Somewhere, USA With Whom: ???

Participants will work and learn about the many problems with food production, distribution, and consumption in America.

15. Restoration and Conservation in Our National Parks

Where: Florida City, FL With Whom: Biscayne and Everglades National Parks

Service will include working on several projects including park clean up, removal of invasive species, habitat restoration, and the preservation of diverse wildlife with various National Parks in the Everglades and surrounding areas.

16. The Contrast of Inner- and Outer-City Education

Where: Cincinnati, OH With Whom: Various public schools and after-school programs

Participants will gain a better understanding of the public school system by working hands-on in the classrooms and having personal interaction with the students.

17. Rebuilding the Heart of the Gulf Coast

Where: New Orleans, LA With Whom: Common Ground Relief

Volunteers will work with Common Ground Relief in the Lower Ninth Ward to help rebuild homes and provide emergency relief for victims of hurricane disasters in the Gulf Coast Region.

18. Adult Disabilities

Where: Mobile, AL

With Whom: L'Arche Mobile

Through service work, attending educational gatherings, and interaction with the "core members" or disabled adults in the L'Arche community, volunteers will be immersed in the community's culture and will see the mission of L'Arche in action.

19. The Inaccessibility of Communities

Where: Nashville, TN

With Whom: United Cerebral Palsy

Participants will have the opportunity to work in different communities constructing wheelchair ramps at various homes. Along with this service, the group will explore the issues of accessibility in communities as well as have the opportunity to participate in a wheelchair basketball program

20. The Invisible American

Where: San Diego, CA

With Whom: Border Angels

Participants will have the opportunity to explore and learn of some of the struggles that immigrants face. Through a series of speakers, experiences, and service, the students will get a glimpse of the incredible journey that so many men, women, and children make across the desert in order to come into the United States. This group will also have a chance to take a tour of the United States Border Patrol in San Diego.

21. Refugee Resettlement in a Metropolitan Area

Where: Atlanta, GA

With Whom: Lutheran Services of Georgia

The group will have a chance to learn about the unique struggles that refugees from around the world face when they come to the United States. The group will also be able to work with some children in an after school setting and will be able to learn from their experiences.

22. Appalachian Cultures and Sustainable Living

Where: Spencer, WV

With Whom: Appalachian Catholic Worker

Through service work, community interaction, and field trips, participants will learn about the many environmental and societal causes of this region's poverty and wealth. This trip explores sustainable living and how it can relieve Appalachia's poverty, even from home. The majority of the service for this trip includes chopping wood, fixing fences, gardening, and basic farming.

Summer Break:

23. A Glimpse into the Life of Low Income Inner-City Youth (MAY 7th - 14th)

Where: West Milford, NJ

With Whom: Camp Vacamas

Established in 1924 by a group of New York City Teachers, Vacamas was designed to be a place where children could go to enjoy their summers. Participants will experience working with after school and/or weekend education programs for underserved inner-city youth, hands on experiences and fun evening activities hosted by Camp Vacamas are also offered.

24. Appalachian Cultures and Sustainable Living (MAY 6th - 12th)

Where: Spencer, WV

With Whom: Appalachian Catholic Worker

Through service work, community interaction, and field trips, participants will learn about the many environmental and societal causes of this region's poverty and wealth. This trip explores sustainable living and how it can relieve Appalachia's poverty, even from home. The majority of the service for this trip includes chopping wood, fixing fences, gardening, and basic farming.

25. What does it take to Sustain a Community? (MAY 7th - 18th)

Where: San Salvador, El Salvador

With Whom: Crispaz

Participants will have the chance to view a community and the reality of those living in poverty. Participants will work with members who are the poorest of the poor and will also meet with those which impact the community a great deal such as the business community (economic analysts, union workers, labor rights activists, etc.), community members, and leaders and representatives. Participants will travel to rural areas while also visiting the city. While in the city, groups can meet with local developmental agencies, USAID, environmental organizations, and others engaged in addressing the issues facing rural communities.