Florida State Greek Life Alternative Break

Office of Greek Life

Project Jamaica 2015

2015 Participant Application Packet
What is an Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip?
An ASB trip is an opportunity for you to engage in community service during your spring break with your peers. ASB is a great way to explore social issues and discover new things through education and purposeful action. As a part of Greek Life ASB, you will have the opportunity to join forces with other members of the Greek community to engage in making a difference in complex social issues. By providing some much needed assistance, you have the chance to learn from the people and organizations you encounter and gain a broader understanding of the world around you. Through holistic learning and by showing respect and commitment to achieving shared visions, you will experience meaningful service, develop new friendships within the Greek community, learn about different cultures, further your education or career goals, and have the opportunity to explore social change.

Who can go on these trips?
Space is limited on the trip and spots will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. In order to be eligible for the trip you must be a member of a fraternity or sorority recognized by one of the four Greek governing councils at Florida State University. You must have a positive attitude and a willingness to serve others.

Through partnership with the Center for Leadership and Social Change, the Greek Life Alternative Spring Break program strives to maintain the same quality service experience hosted by The Alternative Breaks Program. The Alternative Breaks Program is an Associate Member of Break Away, a national not-for-profit organization. It is our privilege to uphold the core philosophies of Break Away: the Eight Components of a Quality Alternative Break and the Active Citizen Continuum.

Eight Components of a Quality Alternative Break

**Strong Direct Service**
Programs provide an opportunity for participants to engage in direct or "hands-on" service that addresses critical but unmet social needs.

**Orientation**
Participants are oriented to the mission and objectives of both the break program and the host agency or organization with which they will be working.

**Education**
Programs establish and achieve educational objectives to give participants a sense of context and understanding of both the region in which they will be working and of the problems they will be addressing during the break.

**Training**
Participants are provided with adequate training in skills necessary to carry out tasks and projects during the trip. Ideally this training should take place prior to departure, although in some instances it may occur once participants have reached their site.

**Reflection**
During the trip, participants reflect upon the experiences they are having. Applying classroom learning and integrating many academic disciplines should also occur. The site leaders should set aside time for reflection to take place, both individually and in a group setting.

**Reorientation**
Upon return to campus, there should be a re-orientation session for all participants where they can share their break experiences with one another and with the greater campus community and are actively encouraged to translate this experience into a life-long commitment to service.

**Diversity**
Strong Alternative Break programs include participants representing the range of students present in the campus community. Coordinators should recruit, design, implement and evaluate their program with this end in mind.

**Alcohol and Other Drug Free**
Programs must be aware that issues of legality, liability, personal safety and group cohesion are of concern when alcohol and other drugs are consumed on an Alternative Break. Programs should provide education and training on alcohol and other drug related issues as well as develop a policy on how these issues will be dealt with on an Alternative Break.

http://alternativebreaks.org/8components.asp
Learning Objectives:

Pre-Break Transformation
Prepare student for on-site experience and provide basic education about site-specific social issues.

- Education, Orientation, Training
- Pre-break service projects
- Icebreakers and group building activities
- Preflection: goals and expectations

On-Break Transformation
Encourage participants to look critically at the root causes of social issues and challenge participants to evaluate the role that they can play in the community.

- Strong direct service
- Ongoing education
- Community involvement
- Daily reflection linked to service activities and education

Post-Break Transformation
Help participants find avenues for continued community involvement and support participants’ efforts to take the next “action steps.”

- Reorientation
- Continued education
- Reflection about reentry
- Post-break service projects
- Challenge to make changes in life choices to benefit the community.

http://alternativebreaks.org/Active_Citizen_Continuum.asp
What is the role of a participant?

The Greek Life Alternative Spring Break Program offers students the opportunity to serve outside of the Tallahassee area while deeply exploring a social issue and building lasting relationships. For participation in an Alternative Break to be rewarding, it requires commitment and dedication. Participants are required to attend regular trip meetings where they will get to know their fellow trip members and become educated about the social issue addressed by their service. After returning, students will participate in a post-trip reflection activity. One student Site Leader will serve as the trip’s facilitator throughout the year and lead all of these events.

- All participants must be a Florida State student in good standing with the University
- All participants must be a member of Greek lettered organization recognized by one of the four governing councils: PH, MGC, IFC, or NPHC.

Important Dates and Commitments

The following items are important events to ensure quality preparation for the Greek Life Alternative Break experience.

_____ 2015 Participant Application Available, September 9th

While participants will be placed on the trip on a first come first serve basis, we reserve the right to limit no more than three people per organization until this date. Since only a limited number of positions on the trip are available, it is important that as many chapters as possible have the opportunity to be represented. Applications and a $300 non-refundable trip deposit should be submitted to the Office of Greek Life (University Center A 4100). Applications will not be accepted without deposits. Applications will not be accepted if space is not available on the trip.

_____ 2015 Participant Application Due: October 17th, 5:00pm

Participants will be selected on a first come first serve basis. In order to properly plan and confirm all details for the trip applications will not be accepted after this date. Applications and a $300 non-refundable trip deposit should be submitted to the Office of Greek Life (University Center A 4100). Applications will not be accepted without deposits. Applications will not be accepted if space is not available on the trip.

_____ 2015 Participant Kick-Off: To Be Determined

Participants will come together to meet their site leaders and other participants. During the kick-off participants will begin to familiarize themselves with both the issues of the alternative break and other participants.

_____ 2015 Project Jamaica Discussions

On occasion throughout the fall semester and through the spring semester, the team will meet regularly to better understand the cultural background of the site we will be visiting as well as familiarize the team with the type of service we will be conducting.
Trip Costs

The cost of the trip includes food at the site, transportation, housing, and other program costs for the week. The cost does not include meals during transit. Final cost will be announced in December. The estimated cost of the Greek Life Alternative Spring Break is $1400-$1700.

Because this is an international trip the price is variable until flights are confirmed. Fundraising is possible to decrease the cost of the trip; however, fundraising is completely contingent on the team selected and their desire to coordinate such efforts with their site leaders.

Payment Information

Participants will be responsible for submitting their payments by the stated deadline. If a participant has not paid the total amount of the trip, they will not be allowed to participate in an Alternative Break. Participants who do not meet payment deadlines risk being dropped from the trip without refund.

_____ A $300 non-refundable deposit (check or money order) is due to submit your application.

_____ A $500 non-refundable payment (check or money order) is due by November 14th, 2014.

_____ Final payments will be made by Friday February 6th, 2015. The remaining balance will be announced in December.

Checks must be made out to FSU Foundation with the subject line as Greek Life Alternative Spring Break.

Passports

Passports are required for this trip since we are traveling outside of the country. Passports should be obtained at the first available moment. Copies of passports will be collected at the December team meeting. Participants who do not provide a copy of their passport by this meeting risk being dropped from the trip without refund.

This packet has been adopted from The Alternative Breaks Applicant Packet from the Center of Leadership and Social Change at The Florida State University.
Greek Life Alternative Spring Break 2015
Participant APPLICATION
The Florida State University

Name____________________________ Phone __________________________
GPA  ___________________________ Class (please circle)  FR   SO   JR   SR
Major ___________________________ E-Mail___________________________

Greek Affiliation _______________________________________________________

Type on a separate sheet of paper and under appropriate headings your involvement in the areas below, including length of time and position(s) held. A resume is preferable.
   o Activities and Organizations  o Service Participation
   o Academic Honors  o Other Qualifications

On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions
   1) What qualities will you bring to your Greek Life Alternative Spring Break trip? (via past experiences, history with service, personality, etc.)?
   2) Explain how you see service playing a role in fraternity and sorority life.

Applications must be turned in no later than 5pm on Friday, October 17th to room 4100 in University Center A.

Have you been on an Alternative Break trip in the past? Yes_____ No_____

If you are not able to attend the Greek Life Alternative Spring Break Trip would you like to receive information about Alternative Breaks offered through the Center for Leadership and Social Change? Yes_____ No_____

How did you hear about the Greek Life Alternative Spring Break?
(Email, through a friend, tabling, etc? )_____________________________________

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Graham in the Office of Greek Life at 644.9574 or by emailing Chris Graham at ccgraham@fsu.edu.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
FSU strives to provide effective, reasonable accommodations for students. Please contact Chris Graham (ccgraham@fsu.edu) to discuss any needed accommodations.

By signing below I grant the Office of Greek Life permission to verify my academic standing.

_________________________    __________________________
Signature      Date