2015 ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK
PARTICIPANT APPLICATION PACKET

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014 AT 5:00PM

Completed applications should be turned in at the Student Leadership & Involvement desk in MU East/Snell 149 or online at http://sli.oregonstate.edu/cce/programs/alternative-break-service-trips.

If you have questions or would like to speak about accommodations related to disability, please contact Kayla Kosaki, Civic Engagement GTA, at kayla.kosaki@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-3172.

What are Alternative Breaks?

An alternative break is a trip that engages a group of students in volunteer service and learning, typically for a week. Alternative break trips originated with college students in the early 1980s as a counter to "traditional" spring break trips. Trips typically have a focus on a particular social issue, such as (but not limited to) poverty, hunger and homelessness, education reform, health and wellness, immigration rights, and the environment. Students learn about the social issues and perform projects with local non-profit and community-based organizations. Alternative breaks challenge students to critically think and react to problems faced by members of the communities in which they are involved. The Alternative Break (AB) program enables students to immerse themselves in a new and different community to learn about its historical, sociological, cultural and/or political background. Each AB experience is crafted in collaboration with community partners and community leaders in order to explore the unique culture and social issues of a specific location. Teams of approximately ten students will spend the week of March 21 to March 28, 2015 on three different trips in Oregon, Washington, and California. Teams will engage in pre-trip planning and orientation meetings and post-trip debriefing and reflection, a structure that promotes continuous learning through the emphasis on critical reflection, reciprocity, and community building.

The AB experience encourages students to critically analyze their assumptions and mindsets through learning about the complexity and root causes of social issues. Being immersed in community environments enables participants to experience, discuss, and understand social issues in a significant way. The learning occurs for students as they are asked to be willing to engage in difficult conversations, ask questions, examine their beliefs, make mistakes, and confront challenging issues. The AB program values holistic education and creates opportunities that inspire personal growth with focus on short-term relief in addition to long-term sustainable social change.

Participating in an Alternative Break will be an opportunity to dedicate a week to impacting a community, building relationships, and reflecting on social issues, while having fun with fellow OSU students who have made an active commitment to learning and growing through service. Many participants will transfer their experience on-site back to their own communities even after the alternative break ends. It is also a unique opportunity to participate and help to shape a legacy of student service here at Oregon State University. Visit http://sli.oregonstate.edu/cce/programs/alternative-break-service-trips to learn about each trip or visit the Center for Civic Engagement in Snell Hall 158 to discuss your interests with the staff.
Benefits of participating in an Alternative Break:

- Engage in meaningful service to impact change related to an issue you care about
- Learn about and reflect upon the complexity and interconnectedness of social issues and problems
- Improve your leadership, critical thinking, and dialogue skills in dynamic real world scenarios
- Learn about options for continuing community engagement work upon your return to OSU
- Build meaningful relationships and a new community of civic-minded OSU students
- Travel to and learn about regional communities
- Learn about and reflect upon the complexity and interconnectedness of social issues and problems
- Improve your leadership, critical thinking, and dialogue skills in dynamic real world scenarios
- Learn about options for continuing community engagement work upon your return to OSU
- Build meaningful relationships and a new community of civic-minded OSU students
- Travel to and learn about regional communities
- Learn about and explore new perspectives
- Develop skills in negotiating multiple perspectives, viewpoints, and stakeholders’ interests in decision making and actions
- Develop an increased capacity to work across differences to build communities
- Gain valuable experience for your resume
- Experience a program that will likely inform your future career path and lifestyle
- Learn about yourself, challenge yourself, and have fun

Participant Expectations:

- Participate in ALL pre- and post-trip meetings (there will be 3 pre-trip meetings and 1 post-trip meeting).
- Be open to processing (at your own comfort level) the Alternative Break experience individually and as a group through organized reflection, journaling, and other activities that suit your reflection preferences.
- Serve as a positive role model, representative, and ambassador of Oregon State University while on and off campus.
- Be respectful of diverse community and cultural norms and values that you may experience in community and/or with members of the Alternative Break team.
- Commit to being an active contributor to your team and show respect for fellow team members, community partners, and populations with whom you are completing projects.
- Be willing to explore diverse perspectives, opinions and to advance cultural competency, understanding, and sensitivity.
- Be in good university standing (academic and student conduct); Adhere to OSU Student Conduct Code on trip.
- Embrace experiences working independently as well as with a team or group.
- Be organized, self-motivated, adaptable, and flexible.
- Refrain from the use or possession of alcohol or any controlled substance/drugs for the duration of the experience (regardless of age).

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014 AT 5PM**

Drop-off Application: Student Leadership & Involvement, Information Desk, 149 Snell Hall/MU East
Mail Application: Center for Civic Engagement, 158 Snell Hall/Memorial Union East,
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331
Online Application Submission: [http://sli.oregonstate.edu/webform/alternative-spring-break-application](http://sli.oregonstate.edu/webform/alternative-spring-break-application)

Selections are based on the timeliness and quality of the applications and based upon crafting Alternative Break teams representing diversity in experience and perspectives.

Applicants will be notified of the selection outcomes during the week of December 8, 2014.

Questions? Contact Kayla Kosaki, Civic Engagement GTA, at kayla.kosaki@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-3172.
# 2015 Alternative Spring Break Trips

**Saturday March 21st to Saturday March 28th**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunger &amp; Homelessness: San Francisco, California</th>
<th>Estimated Trip Cost: $445 (includes 4 dinners and breakfast)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explore the complex, multi-faceted factors at play impacting hunger and homelessness in San Francisco and learn about homelessness issues in major urban areas including the short-term relief and long-term solutions that are being worked for and envisioned. Participants will complete service projects centered on addressing hunger and homelessness while meeting and working alongside local visionaries who actively address these issues in their communities. If you have an interest in learning about homelessness issues in major urban areas, this is the perfect trip for you. The trip will include hands-on direct service work with people experiencing homelessness from diverse backgrounds such as preparing and serving meals. We will also complete indirect service projects, such as facility improvements and assisting organizations prepare for fundraisers, gaining behind the scenes awareness and understanding of organizations that address homelessness. On our community immersion day, we will explore San Francisco and all that it has to offer!</td>
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<td>Note: Lodging will be in a hostel. Trip fee includes transportation, lodging, 4 community dinners that will be prepared and shared as a group at the hostel and light breakfast, which is included at the hostel. Lunch is on your own or prepared together at the hostel (full kitchen available). You will be responsible for your meals on travel days as well purchasing materials to pack your lunch and supplement breakfast. You also will be responsible for paying public transportation fees that will total approximately $16 for the week.</td>
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<th>Community &amp; Cultural Engagement: Yakima, Washington</th>
<th>Estimated Trip Cost: $145 (includes 4 dinners)</th>
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<td>Uncover the human face and human cost of land acquisition, colonization, and immigration by exploring the influx and interplay of different cultural groups in the Yakima valley by working with the Native American Reservation, Yakama Nation, Latino migrant workers, and the City of Yakima. Through direct service work, we will expose the buried roots of the area’s historical relationship to the land and explore implications for the present and future of different cultural groups in the region. We will see first-hand the human impact and cost of land acquisition and immigration in the pursuit of the &quot;American dream&quot;. During our trip we will serve different populations: We’ll help to teach English language skills to recent Latino migrant workers, assist with afterschool children’s programs in an American Indian housing community, complete projects alongside members of the homeless community, and even work on the land ourselves. The trip begins with an in depth look into the history of Yakama Nation via a visit to the Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center. During our community immersion day, the group will elect outings to a local, beautiful hike/park, a community festival, the Allied Arts Center, the Yakima Valley Museum, or the Yakima Area Arboretum.</td>
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<td>Note: Lodging will be in a church or community center. Trip fee includes transportation, lodging, and 4 community dinners that will be prepared and shared together as a group. You will be responsible for your meals on travel days as well as for purchasing materials for breakfast and to pack your lunch. There will be a community kitchen available to prepare breakfast, pack a lunch, and cook dinner.</td>
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<th>Environmental Restoration &amp; Conservation: Ashland, Oregon</th>
<th>Estimated Trip Cost: $220 (includes 4 dinners)</th>
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<td>Discover the pressing environmental conservation and restoration issues in Ashland, Oregon. Participants will complete environmental restoration projects such as creek restoration, planting native plants, mulching, invasive species removal, fertilizing, trail building/maintenance, and restoring bird habitats with a variety of community organizations. Participants will meet with local environmental leaders to learn about threats to the natural environment and local legislation that is impacting natural habitats and ecosystems. This trip will include many hands-on, physical projects and possible hikes in the beautiful Pacific Northwest outdoors. Rain jackets, rain pants, and work boots are required for this trip to ensure comfort of the participants. On our community immersion day, we will explore Ashland, go hiking, and/or possibly attend a play at the local Shakespeare Festival.</td>
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<td>Note: This trip is one day shorter than the other trips (March 21st to 27th). Trip fee includes transportation, lodging, 4 community dinners that will be prepared and shared together as a group. You will be responsible for your meals on travel days as well as for purchasing materials to pack your lunch and supplement the breakfast provided by the motel. There will be a shared kitchen available to prepare a lunch and cook dinner each day. Lodging will be at a local motel and students will be asked to a share queen sized bed with another participant. Sleeping preferences will be collected on a trip information form after trip selection.</td>
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*Note: All trips include breakfast, pack a lunch, and dinner.*
Note: As part of the Alternative Break experience, **you may be asked to sleep in a mixed gendered room/environment.** If you have concerns or would like more information, please contact Kayla Kosaki at kayla.kosaki@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-3172 and we will do our best to meet sleeping preferences and needs.

Alternative Breaks can be physically, emotionally, and mentally challenging as a result of the immersive nature of the trips and completing service projects, often requiring physical labor and reflection activities over the course of a 5 to 6 day period. Participants are asked and encouraged to take responsibility for their wellbeing and experience during the trip by planning ahead and making needs known to the team and trip leaders.

### DEPOSIT AND TRIP FEES FOR ALTERNATIVE BREAK TRIPS

Every participant is responsible for paying the trip fee; estimated trip costs are above. The actual trip cost may be lower than estimated.

**Trip offers will be made before winter break and if selected, you must accept your spot via email within a week to hold your spot.** Thus, please be sure the email address you supply is one that you will be checking regularly. You will have winter break to fundraise if you wish. The Center for Civic Engagement will provide fundraising ideas and resources to you. **A non-refundable trip deposit of 50% of the total trip fee will be due by the end of the first week of winter term, Friday January 9, 2015.**

If we do not reach at least 8 trip participants for a trip by January 9, 2015, the trip may be cancelled. In this case, you will be refunded in full for any deposit you have made.

Checks or money orders need to be made payable to “Center for Civic Engagement—MUNCSC” and dropped off the Student Leadership & Involvement Information Desk in Snell Hall/MU East 149. In the memo line, please write your name, ASB, and the location/city for your trip. Final payment due dates will be communicated after trip selections have been made.

**Trip Refund and Cancellation Policy:** The trip deposit is non-refundable. If you have extenuating, unexpected medical, academic, or family/personal circumstances that are out of your control and need to cancel from the trip, you may be reimbursed for any expenses that the Center for Civic Engagement can recover. The emergency must arise before the trip starts to receive any refund. Students will be asked to provide a signed request for any partial refund that summarizes the extenuating circumstances. Please communicate any need to cancel as soon as possible so we can work with you. If you are or the Center for Civic Engagement is able to identify a replacement participant that meets trip criteria, a full refund may be possible.
PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: ___________________________________________ OSU ID#: ______________________________________

Address (Include your street address, city, state, and zip code for your current address):

________________________________________________________

Home or Cell Phone Number: ________________________________

OSU/ONID Email: ___________________________ Age: __________

Birth Date (DD/MM/YYYY): ___________________________ Gender: ________________________________

Major/Program: ______________________________________

Class Standing (ex. Sophomore, Senior, Graduate Student, etc.): ________________________________

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Please thoughtfully respond to each of the following questions in 2-3 double spaced pages and attach your personal statements to this application packet. Trip placements will be heavily dependent upon your personal statements.

1.) Briefly tell us why you would like to participate in an Alternative Break trip. Also, comment on what you hope to gain (skills, competencies, knowledge, etc.) as a result of the experience.

2.) Describe your previous volunteer, leadership, and/or service experiences. Please list any skills or experiences you have that you feel is relevant to and prepares you for an Alternative Break trip. Note: No previous experience is necessary to apply.

3.) What qualities do you possess that help contribute to being a positive, collaborative team member?

4.) Describe your experience in working with diverse groups of people. Tell us about a time when you were faced with diverse opinions and perspectives. How did you respond to these differences?

5.) In a bulleted list, please include current or past employment positions, organization membership, and other co-curricular activities in which you’ve participated at Oregon State University, other colleges, or high school.

6.) How did you learn about the Alternative Break program?

REFERENCES

Please include at least two professional references that can speak your leadership and teamwork experience in addition to your character. Please include name, position/title, organization, phone number, email address, and relation to you. You should include this information at the end of your personal statements.
**TRIP PREFERENCES**

In which Alternative Spring Break trips are you most interested?

You may apply for one, two, or all three trips! Please rate preference and level of interest for each trip. Provide a brief explanation for your selections. **If you are not interested in participating in one of two of the trips, please put an "X" in the Preference and Level of Interest boxes so we know not to consider your application for that trip.**

Applicants applying for more than one trip have a higher likelihood of selection. The selection committee will be considering level of past related experience, personal statements and motivations, and diversity in applications in making trip placement determinations.

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<tr>
<th>TRIP</th>
<th>PREFERENCE RANK ORDER (1=most interested, 3=least interested)</th>
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By signing below, I certify that that all application information and my statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I agree to the expectations of trip participants. I understand that admission to or enrollment in an Oregon State University Alternative Break trip may be denied if any information is found to be incomplete or inaccurate. As a part of the application process, I authorize the Center for Civic Engagement to review my student conduct record and share contents with program administrators as necessary. I understand that Oregon State University reserves the right to require the withdrawal of any student on account of unsatisfactory behavior.

Applicant Signature: _______________________________ Date: _______________________________

(Parent/Guardian must sign if student is under 18.)