

Grand Valley State University

Alternative Breaks

Take the Step, Make the Difference

SPRING BREAK APPLICATION

Dear Prospective Participant,

Thank you for your interest in being a participant for the 2011-2012 Alternative Breaks program! This year, we will be sending out three winter, thirteen spring, and two College of Education spring break trips, as well as our monthly Service Saturday projects.

On the last page of this application you will find a list of time commitments. As participants of our organization, you are required to attend all events listed on the calendar. Please read through them carefully and list any foreseeable conflicts you may have on the Participant Application Agreement, which is located on the last page.

Please fill out this application to the best of your ability. We understand that there is limited space for your answers, so just try to give us an idea of who you are in the space provided. If you would like an electronic copy, please visit our website, www.gvsualternativebreaks.com. You may also email us at alt.breaks@gmail.com with any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to meeting with you!

Thank you,
2011-2012 Alternative Breaks Executive Board

Our Mission:

Alternative Breaks strives to develop growth and understanding through reflective, hands-on service learning projects, focusing on different social issues throughout the nation on educational breaks from Grand Valley State University.

Our Vision:

Alternative Breaks envisions a community of active citizens, empowered through service learning, who value the community as a priority when making life decisions.

Our Values:

*Service Learning
Diversity and Inclusion
Teamwork
Dedication
Social and Environmental Responsibility*

Spring Break applications are due by

December 9, 2011

Please submit completed applications and a \$5 application fee to the Community Service Learning Center in **Kirkhof Center, Room 110B**

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

(please keep this page for your records)

You are required and expected to:

- Attend and participate all Alternative Breaks events and meetings (listed below)
- Attend group get-togethers (date, time, and location will depend upon your group)
- Commit to the Alternative Breaks “no drugs or alcohol” policy
- Abide by the Alternative Breaks constitution
- Cooperate with site leaders and other group members
- Remain flexible, open-minded, and responsible
- Educate self and others about the issue relative to your site

Spring Break Participant Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location
Fri, Dec 2, 2011	\$100 non-refundable payment	by 5:00p	CSLC, Kirkhof Center, Room 110B
Sat, Jan 21, 2012	Orientation & Incredible Journey	12:00p-2:00p	Alumni House
Fri, Feb 3, 2012	\$150 non-refundable payment	by 5:00p	CSLC, Kirkhof Center, Room 110B
Sat, Feb 11, 2012	Alternative Breaks Volunteer Day	9:00a-3:00p	TBA
Mar 3-10, 2012	Alternative Spring Break	TBD by your site leader	
Sat, Mar 31, 2012	Never-Ending Journey	9:00a-3:00p	TBA

SECTION 1 PERSONAL INFORMATION

Who are you?

Name _____ E-mail Address _____

Local Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Cell Phone _____ Shirt size _____

Year 1st year 2nd year 3rd year 4th year 5+ year Graduate

Major(s) _____ Minor(s) _____

Food Allergies/Restrictions _____

1. To help us get to know you better, please list any extracurricular activities with which you are involved, such as work, sports, organizations, etc.
2. Please list all previous Alternative Breaks experience. Include the year and the issue with which you worked.
3. Please list three interesting facts about yourself.
4. What type of role do you play when working in a group?
5. What motivates you to be a participant of an Alternative Breaks trip?
6. Are you 21 or older? If so, are you willing/able to drive?

SECTION 2 ISSUE SELECTION

What are you passionate about?

Affordable Housing	<i>working with neighborhoods to provide affordable housing</i>
Children at Risk	<i>providing education services to preschool-aged children</i>
Disaster Relief	<i>rebuilding a community affected by a natural disaster</i>
Domestic Violence	<i>facilitating transition for victims of domestic violence</i>
Health and AIDS	<i>working with a harm reduction facility to promote safe practices</i>
Hunger and Homelessness	<i>providing basic accommodations to those in need</i>
Individuals with Disabilities	<i>enriching the lives of those with mental and physical impairments</i>
LGBT Awareness	<i>working with an organization that shelters LGBT youth</i>
Organic Farming	<i>assisting in practicing sustainable agricultural methods</i>
Park Preservation	<i>assisting with the maintenance of a state park</i>
Refugee Resettlement	<i>providing a safe haven for those who have fled their homeland</i>
Sustainability	<i>aiding with sustainable practices while experiencing rustic living</i>
Wildlife Refuge	<i>enriching the environment and habitat of animals</i>
Youth and Education	<i>providing educational services for inner-city youth</i>

Trip names and descriptions are subject to change.

Please select **four issues** listed above include a brief explanation of why you chose those issues.

Issue _____

Why?

Issue _____

Why?

Issue _____

Why?

Issue _____

Why?

Are there any issues with which you would not feel comfortable working?

SECTION 3 PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

What do we expect from you?

You are required and expected to:

- Attend and participate all Alternative Breaks events and meetings
- Attend group get-togethers (date, time, and location will depend upon your group)
- Commit to the Alternative Breaks “no drugs or alcohol” policy
- Abide by the Alternative Breaks constitution
- Cooperate with site leaders and other group members
- Remain flexible, open-minded, and responsible
- Educate self and others about the issue relative to your site

Time commitments:

Date	Event	Time	Location
Mon, Nov 28, 2011	SB Orientation	9p-11p	Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room
Fri, Dec 2, 2011	\$100 non-refundable deposit	by 5p	CSLC, Kirkhof Center, Room 110B
Sat, Jan 21, 2012	SB Incredible Journey	12p-2p	Alumni House
Fri, Feb 3, 2012	\$150 non-refundable payment	by 5:00p	CSLC, Kirkhof Center, Room 110B
Sat, Feb 11, 2012	AB Volunteer Day	9a-3p	TBA
Mar 3-10, 2012	Alternative Spring Break	TBD by your site leader	
Sat, Mar 31, 2012	SB Never-Ending Journey	9a-3p	TBA

Cost:

The cost of week-long trips is \$250. This covers food, travel, and boarding costs. It is suggested that participants bring some money for group outings, but it is not a requirement. The deadlines for the two separate payments are listed above. Please note that both payments are non-refundable. Fundraising and scholarship opportunities are available. Scholarship applications are available on the GVSU Alternative Breaks website.

Participant Application Agreement:

Do you have any foreseeable conflicts with the dates listed above? If so, which one(s) and why?

_____ I have read the Alternative Breaks mission, vision, and values on the first page of this application.

_____ I understand that it is my responsibility to meet the participant expectations.

_____ I will commit to the Alternative Breaks “no drugs or alcohol” policy.

_____ I understand that it my responsibility to attend all mandatory dates listed above.

 Printed name

 Signature

 Date