

More than a Place to Park...Local Alternative Spring Break

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WHAT IS ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK?

- Involving college students in community-based service projects
- Being immersed in diverse environments to experience, discuss, and understand social issues in a significant way
- Increasing the likelihood that participants will transfer lessons learned on-site back to their own communities
- A springboard into lifelong active citizenship

Adapted from http://alternativebreaks.org/Alternative_Breaks.asp

WHY GO LOCAL?

- To build connections/friendship among off-campus students
- To encourage citizenship education/social responsibility
- To provide a hands-on, experiential learning opportunity for students with multiple life roles
- For the convenience of involving off-campus students within their residential communities
- To enhance town gown relations
- To facilitate commitment to service in one's own backyard

WHO'S INVOLVED?

Behind the Scenes...

- Off-Campus Student Involvement Office
- The Engaged University
- Service Site Coordinator
- Student trip leaders
- Community members

In the scene...

- Service Site Coordinator
- Student trip leaders
- Student participants
- Community members

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE PROGRAM

Logistics

- Develop a Local ASB Timeline
- Contact potential service sites
- Build partnerships both on- and off-campus
- Design and implement student trip leader, staff advisor, & participant selection process
- Draft a budget
- Assist Community Service Learning office with ASB kickoff coordination
- Coordinate meal preparation
- Determine cost to students
- Organize transportation
- Coordinate meal preparation

Logistics (cont.)

- Draft documents
 - ~ applications, liability forms, participant agreements, daily logs, contact list, and evaluations
 - ~calendar of meetings, events, and training sessions
 - ~advertising material
- Design student trip leader training
 - ~reflection and facilitation
 - ~social justice issues
 - ~team building
 - ~collaboration

Advertising and Recruitment for Student Involvement

- Off-Campus Student Involvement website
- Facebook
- Student Union website
- Student organizations
- Commuting listserv
- Presentations to classes
- Commuter programs
- UM Shuttle buses
- Local television station
- Off-Campus Housing Office

Student Trip Leader Role

- Attend pre-trip training sessions
- Coordinate pre-trip logistics
 - ~coordinate work week
 - ~collaborate with site supervisor
 - ~organize speakers
 - ~organize team building and reflection activities
- Facilitate reflections
- Plan and lead team meetings
- Distribute and complete evaluations
- Assist in planning and implementing kick-off and post-ASB celebration events
- ~take part in participant selection
- ~design team building activities

Student Participant Role

- Attend team meetings
- Participate fully in service, reflection, and team building activities
- Attend ASB kick-off and celebration
- Complete evaluations

Staff Advisor Role

- Provide life wisdom, support and encouragement to trip leaders
- Participate fully in service, reflection, and group activities
- Manage budget
- Enforce university policy as needed

Next Steps...

- Analyze evaluations to inform and improve subsequent Local ASB programs
- Expand Local ASB to various communities surrounding the university
- Streamline Local ASB within the Community Service Learning Office's larger ASB program
 - ~to consolidate the ASB processes
 - ~to improve marketing and recruitment opportunities
 - ~to build community among all ASB trip leaders