

# SMU Alternative Breaks Faculty/Staff Trip Advisor

SMU Alternative Breaks (AB) is a student organization offering direct service opportunities during every academic break, including Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer. AB takes groups of students, student leaders, and a faculty/staff trip advisor to communities in need across the country and world to perform vital service with a range of organizations. Participants have the opportunity to do quality service, gain education about important social issues, and reflect on how they can create positive social change. AB is a movement of active citizenship, striving to create sustainable change and fight social injustice in all communities.

Alternative Breaks is more than just a fun alternative to the “traditional” university break. It is a national movement of students committed to educating fellow students about social issues and communities in need through a hands-on experiential learning opportunity with the goal of developing them into active citizens. Each trip is intentionally developed to provide *strong direct service, orientation, education, training, reflection, reorientation, and diversity*, while remaining *alcohol and other drug free*, also known as the Eight Components of a Quality Alternative Break.

The Community Engagement & Leadership Center, which supports the Alternative Breaks organization through advising, is committed to sending each trip with a carefully selected advisor, not only in case of emergencies, but also for the unique perspective and experience that faculty and staff bring to the trip. Trip Advisor applications are open to both new and returning AB trip advisors, and trip education issues span a range of global social issues.

Please review the following information about the Trip Advisor role, and this year’s trip opportunities, and consider whether you are interested in joining the AB movement this year as an advisor. **Applications for all Breaks are due by Friday, September 12, 2014.**

If you have any questions, please contact me or visit the AB website at [www.smu.edu/ab](http://www.smu.edu/ab).

Bailey Guthrie  
Community Engagement & Leadership Center  
214-768-7304  
[cguthrie@smu.edu](mailto:cguthrie@smu.edu)

# Role of the Trip Advisor

As outlined in the AB Constitution, the Faculty/Staff Trip Advisors:

- are responsible for adding their valuable experience to the trip and its participants
- are not meant to micromanage the trip, but provide leadership in the event of a crisis and help ensure all students are abiding by agreed upon student contracts
- are expected, although not required, to participate in pre and post trip activities as much as possible
- will attend their trip for no charge

Expectations of the Trip Advisor are to:

- Participate in all trip service, reflection, and fun activities
- Be accessible to trip leaders to provide mentorship and facilitate leadership development
- Communicate and collaborate effectively with trip leaders
- Communicate and collaborate effectively with community organization representatives
- Be prepared to facilitate conflict resolution strategies
- Be prepared to help participants process issues encountered
- Be prepared to help trip leaders manage stress, logistics, conflict, exhaustion, and crisis
- Be prepared to share your thoughts and experiences with participants
- Complete appropriate follow-up activities, evaluations, and program documentation with participants
- Uphold the mission, values, and policies of the Alternative Breaks program
- Must be certified through SMU to drive a 15-passenger van if willing to serve as a driver
- Assist students in the event of an emergency

Ultimately, the Alternative Break is student-driven, and the Community Engagement & Leadership Center asks that advisors give student leaders the opportunity to exercise their leadership 'muscles.' Potentially, this may involve them making some decisions that you yourself would not make if you were to be the leader of the group, and/or them taking a longer time to arrive at certain decisions than you would take yourself. If their decision will result in a hazardous situation, it would be appropriate to step in and suggest a different approach, a debrief of which could be a great learning opportunity for the students. Otherwise, we encourage advisors to let the students figure things out for themselves.

# Trip Advisor FAQ's

- **How much does it cost an advisor for an AB trip?**  
Trip advisors attend the AB trip at no charge to themselves, with the exception of incidentals and food purchased en route to and from the trip location.
- **Can my partner and/or children attend with me?**  
This can be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on space available on the trip, and only at the expense of the trip advisor.
- **Will I share a room with students?**  
In most cases yes, as AB trips travel very economically. Most trip accommodations are made through hostels and churches with shared room accommodations. Exact accommodations vary by trip.

For more information or additional questions, please contact Bailey Guthrie at [cguthrie@smu.edu](mailto:cguthrie@smu.edu) or 214-768-7304.

# Alternative Breaks 2014-2015

## Trip Descriptions

### Fall Break

October 11-14, 2014

- ***Extreme Makeover Home Edition: Kiamichi Country***
  - In the small town of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, the group will partner with Rebuilding Together Kiamichi Country to work on critical home repairs and improvements for low-income homeowners. Rebuilding Together strives to develop “a safe and healthy home for every person.”  
*[Repeat Site]*
- ***Fostering Hope in Foster Care***
  - In Austin, the capital city of Texas, Alternative Breaks will partner with Helping Hand Home, an organization that seeks to improve the lives of kids who have suffered neglect, abandonment, and severe abuse. Participants will assist with homework and read to young students. There are also opportunities to engage in activities with the kids, such as arts and crafts, a karaoke party, or game night.  
*[New site]*
- ***Food Insecurity: Finding an Oasis***
  - Today, approximately one in six Americans struggles with hunger. This trip will partner with a handful of non-profit organizations doing great work with this issue in San Antonio. Participants will have the opportunity to work directly with individuals and families, while learning about food availability and access.  
*[New site]*
- ***Behind Closed Doors: Creating a Future without Domestic Violence***
  - This trip will partner with an organization right here in Dallas, Texas: Genesis Women’s Shelter. The groups will sort and collect donations at the Genesis Thrift Store as well as lead an activity for the children at the shelter. The thrift store receives over 300 donations each day and raises close to \$1,000,000 every year. In all, the store is crucial to fundraising for Genesis and gives the women and children an opportunity to get the belongings they need for free.  
*[Repeat Site]*

- ***Tigers on a Gold Leash: Animal Rights***
  - In Bridgeport, Texas, Alternative Breaks will be working with the Center for Animal Research and Education (C.A.R.E.), a non-profit animal sanctuary that provides a safe, loving, and permanent home for exotic animals in need. Participants will be cleaning cages, doing yard work, and preparing for the organization's upcoming Fall Festival, while learning about animal rights.  
*[Repeat Site]*
  
- ***Invisible Texans: Persons Experiencing Homelessness***
  - There is an estimated 30,000 people in the state of Texas experiencing homelessness. This trip will explore this issue in the Houston area alongside a few organizations. Participants will have the opportunity of working directly with men, women, and children that are experiencing homelessness, while learning about the reasons behind one's inability to secure and maintain housing.  
*[New site]*

**Winter Break**  
**December 18-22, 2014**

- ***Welcoming Winter: Community Empowerment in Time for the Holidays***
  - In Austin, Texas we'll be working with Blackland Community Development Corporation, a non-profit that supports Austin residents who earn less than 60% of the median income for Austin. Participants will serve in the Blackland Neighborhood by washing windows, painting, cleaning up the community playground, as well as assisting community members tend to their local garden.  
*[Repeat site]*

**Winter Break**  
**January 5-14, 2015**

- ***Unmasking the Marketplace: Equal Access & Education for Ecuadorian Children***
  - For the fifth year, participants will travel to *Quito, Ecuador* to volunteer with UBECEI, which is an organization focused on providing educational services, recreational opportunities and social support to at-risk youth and their families. Students will assist in educational programs for the street children and child laborers of Quito. Through their service, students will gain exposure and knowledge on issues of global poverty and lack of educational opportunities.  
*[Repeat site]*  
*In order to apply: Must have a passport that is valid until at least August 5, 2015.*

**Spring Break**  
**March 8-14, 2015**

- ***Growing an Intentional Community at Camphill Kimberton***
  - Among the winding roads of rural Kimberton, Pennsylvania sits a dynamic farming, gardening, and handcrafting intentional community that includes adults with developmental disabilities. Participants will be returning for the second year to this site and will engage in outdoor farming tasks, work in the greenhouses, weaving and crafting activities, and evening meals with the “villagers” and “coworkers.”  
*[Repeat site]*
  
- ***Everything Isn’t Always Peachy: Cultivating Food Access in Atlanta***
  - This group will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to work with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, a very large and well-established center that supports the reduction of hunger in the city. Participants will work in the Product Rescue Center, the Grocery Floor, and the Mobile Pantry. The group will also have the opportunity to serve in the organization’s Community Gardens, which provide neighborhoods with fresh vegetables, beautiful land, and a place to meet and work towards positive goals.  
*[New site]*
  
- ***AB Stands with LGBT: D.C. Edition***
  - Alternative Breaks will travel to our nation’s capital this year to work with LGBT issues. This trip will partner with the D.C. Center for the LGBT Community and will give participants the opportunity to serve in HIV prevention, education, and outreach, as well as with other service and advocacy initiatives. As the LGBT continues to fight for equal rights, this trip will shed light on the issue from a political perspective.  
*[New site]*
  
- ***At-Risk Youth: Inspiring the Next Generation through Caregiving and Teaching***
  - This year, Alternative Breaks will travel to Cartago, Costa Rica to work with El Pueblito, a non-governmental and non-profit organization located on a beautiful field surrounded by the mountains overseeing the Irazú volcano. The organization offers programs and services for children, teens, and women in crisis due to sexual harassment and domestic violence. The group will be working on educational activities with the children, mostly English teaching and tutoring, and potentially a small construction project.  
*[New site]*  
*In order to apply: Must have a passport that is valid until at least October 1, 2015.*

- ***Nurture over Neglect: Finding a Safe Haven Away from the Home***
  - In St. Louis, Missouri participants will be volunteering at Crisis Nursery Kids, which provides temporary care for young children in order to help prevent child abuse and neglect. The group will serve by giving the children individual attention from rocking and playing to feeding and dressing at the 24-hour shelters.  
*[Repeat site]*
  
- ***Rising Above the Storm: Rebuilding Homes and Lives***
  - Alternative Breaks will return to New Orleans, Louisiana to serve with a Hurricane Katrina disaster recovery organization called the St. Bernard Project. This non-profit organization engages youth in the recovery and rebirth of the New Orleans area through rebuilding distressed and foreclosed homes to stabilize neighborhoods.  
*[Repeat site]*
  
- ***The Road to Freedom from Violence and Exploitation***
  - This group will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to serve alongside three amazing organizations: Wellspring Living, YouthSpark, and BeLoved Atlanta. Participants will engage in facilities maintenance, meal preparation, outreach, and more, while learning about issues related to domestic violence and human trafficking.  
*[New site]*
  
- ***Empowering Students through an Education in Exploration***
  - In Taos, New Mexico, the group will work with the Roots and Wings Community School. The school is very understaffed, so volunteers are crucial to creating a positive classroom experience. While at Roots and Wings over Spring Break 2013, SMU Breakers spent a majority of their time tutoring and teaching mini lessons in classrooms. They also repainted the school's entry hallway and helped with outdoor landscaping and remodeling. SMU students are able to serve as role models for younger children as well as truly inspire and positively influence the lives of many children.  
*[Repeat site]*
  
- ***Food as Medicine in the Concrete Jungle***
  - In New York City, New York, Alternative Breaks be partnering with God's Love We Deliver to prepare and serve food to individuals living with serious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and cancer, who are not able to provide quality meals for themselves as a result of their illnesses. Every day, God's Love We Deliver prepares and delivers close to 4,6000 meals.  
*[Repeat site]*

- ***Deconstructing Our Borders through Service and Solidarity***
  - This group will travel to El Paso, Texas to partner with Annunciation House, a non-profit organization that accompanies migrant, homeless, and economically vulnerable peoples of the border region through hospitality, advocacy, and education. Participants will repairs rooms, organize meals, and other projects, while learning about what constitutes just relationships between people and countries.  
*[New site]*
  
- ***Sanctuary for the Spirit: Rescue and Healing for Animals and Humans***
  - In Taos, New Mexico, Alternative Breaks will be partnering with the Equine Spirit Sanctuary and the Four Corners Animal League for the second time. Participants will work to beautify the grounds, clean stables, do some painting projects, and more.  
*[Repeat site]*

# Faculty/Staff Alternative Breaks Trip Advisor Application

Application Deadline: Friday, September 12, 2014 | E-mail to [cguthrie@smu.edu](mailto:cguthrie@smu.edu)

## Faculty/Staff Member Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Campus Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (used when booking flights, if applicable)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City/State Zip Code

*Please answer the following questions in the space below or attach a separate page:*

How did you hear about Alternative Breaks?

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Why are you interested in serving as an AB trip advisor?

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Please list any prior experience leading students/groups outside of formal class settings:

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# Break/Trip Preferences

For each of the Breaks you are available, please rank the trips in order of your preference [1 = 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, etc.]

## Fall Break – October 11-14, 2014

- \_\_\_\_ *Food Insecurity: Finding an Oasis*; San Antonio, Texas
- \_\_\_\_ *Extreme Makeover Home Edition: Kiamichi Country*; Hartshorne, Oklahoma
- \_\_\_\_ *Behind Closed Doors: Creating a Future without Domestic Violence*; Dallas, Texas
- \_\_\_\_ *Tigers on a Gold Leash: Animal Rights*; Bridgeport, Texas
- \_\_\_\_ *Fostering Hope in Foster Care*; Austin, Texas
- \_\_\_\_ *Invisible Texans: Persons Experiencing Homelessness*; Houston, Texas

## Winter Break – December 18-22, 2014

- \_\_\_\_ *Welcoming Winter: Community Empowerment in Time for the Holidays*; Austin, Texas

## Winter Break – January 5-14, 2015

- \_\_\_\_ *Unmasking the Marketplace: Equal Access for Ecuadorian Children*; Quito, Ecuador

## Spring Break – March 8-14, 2015

- \_\_\_\_ *Everything Isn't Always Peachy: Cultivating Healthy Food Access*; Atlanta, Georgia
- \_\_\_\_ *AB Stands with LGBT: D.C. Edition*; Washington D.C.
- \_\_\_\_ *At-Risk Youth: Inspiring the Next Generation through Caregiving & Teaching*; Cartago, Costa Rica
- \_\_\_\_ *Nurture over Neglect: Finding a Safe Haven Away from the Home*; St. Louis, Missouri
- \_\_\_\_ *Rising Above the Storm: Rebuilding Homes and Lives*; New Orleans, Louisiana
- \_\_\_\_ *The Road to Freedom from Violence and Exploitation*; Atlanta, Georgia
- \_\_\_\_ *Empowering Students through an Education in Exploration*; Taos, New Mexico
- \_\_\_\_ *Food as Medicine in the Concrete Jungle*; New York City
- \_\_\_\_ *Deconstructing Our Borders through Service and Solidarity*; El Paso, Texas
- \_\_\_\_ *Sanctuary for the Spirit: Rescue and Healing for Animals and Humans*; Taos, New Mexico
- \_\_\_\_ *Growing an Intentional Community at Camphill Kimberton*; Kimberton, Pennsylvania