

# **SMU ALTERNATIVE BREAKS**

## 2013-2014 Site Leader Application

**Due: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 5PM to the Alternative Break Office**

SMU Alternative Breaks is an organization that has sent meaningful trips on direct community service projects for over 25 years. The organization was founded to provide impactful community service while also exposing students to issues of social injustice in the hope to create passionate active citizens. The program has expanded over the years from just Spring Break trips to include trips during the Fall, Winter, and Summer Breaks as well, with plans for weekend trips in the future. The purpose of the SMU Alternative Breaks Site Leaders are to help guide the program forward, successfully lead Alternative Break trips, and develop Active Citizens. The site Leaders will have the responsibility of leading the Alternative Break program in a hands-on fashion, and continuing to provide amazing service opportunities while also helping the communities we serve in on our trips. **This application is due on April 12, 2013 at 5pm in the Alternative Breaks office.**

### **General Requirements for Eligibility:**

- Applicants for the Site Leader positions must have attended at least one trip previously.
- If selected to be a Site Leader, students must commit to attending and leading at least one trip during the year. Students must also commit to weekly training meetings in the Fall Semester, and leading pre and post-trip activities for student participants.
- Students must be in good standing with the University and the Community Engagement and Leadership Center at SMU.

### **Position Description:**

- Site Leaders will work in a team of two student leaders.
- Site Leaders will attend weekend retreat during the Fall Semester. This is true for leaders of EVERY trip. The date for the retreat will be announced before the end of April 2013.
- Site Leaders will coordinate and lead pre-trip meetings for participants
- Site Leaders will lead post-trip reorientation meetings for participants
- Site Leaders will handle logistics and details during the trip to make the participant experience smooth and rewarding.
- Site Leaders will facilitate quality group building, reflection, and education of participants in order to develop Active Citizens.

### **Site Leader Commitments:**

Site Leaders will commit to the following –

- Fulfilling all expectations of their position
- Attending required retreat and ALL subsequent trainings
- Leading an Alternative Break trip
- Notifying Site Leader Trainer of any absences at least 24 hours prior to any meeting or event

**Site Leader Application**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Year:   First-Year       Sophomore               Junior               Senior               Graduate Student

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been on an Alternative Break Trip?   Yes               No

If yes, please list all trips that you have been, indicate any leadership positions, and also include any national conference trips that you have attended (List trip with location, which break, and year):

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If not, are you currently signed up to go on an upcoming trip?   Yes               No

Have you served as an Alternative Break Site Leader previously?   Yes               No

If yes, please list the trip(s) you have led and dates you led them:

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**Please answer each of the following questions completely. These questions will be weighed heavily in the application process. Please attach your answers to this application.**

1. Why are you interested in becoming a site leader for the Alternative Break program?
2. What do you think the overall goal of Alternative Breaks should be?
3. Please describe your previous experience with Alternative Breaks.
4. What special skills or experiences do you feel you can contribute to Alternative Breaks as a site leader (e.g., specific skills, past experiences, language, etc.?)
5. While working at a break site, you hear one of your participants make a comment that is clearly racist. How do you react?

*Please rank the academic break you are most interested in leading (1 is the Break you most prefer): (Please only rank Breaks you are interested in leading)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Break (May 2014)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fall Break, October 12-15, 2012
- \_\_\_\_\_ Winter Break, Dates Pending
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spring Break, March 8-16, 2013 (Tentative)

*Please rank the social issues you are most interested in leading (1 is the social issue you most prefer): (Please rank all social issues)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Disaster Recovery
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medical/Health-HIV/AIDS
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hunger
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmentalism
- \_\_\_\_\_ Native American Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Homelessness
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Immigration Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran's Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Development

*If there is a social issue you are interested in leading that is not listed, please tell us what it may be, if any:* \_\_\_\_\_

**\*For an application to be considered complete, it must include a completed application, completed question responses, a copy of your school schedule for 2013-2014 if available, and an updated resume. Please turn in to the Alternative Break Office by 5:00pm on Friday, April 12, 2013.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give permission to the Office of Student Life to share my conduct records with the staff of the Community Engagement and Leadership Center.