Welcome to the Office for Civic Engagement! As part of our goal of promoting volunteerism and service-learning activity at the University of Montana, we bring you the Alternative Breaks Program. Alternative Breaks coordinates two trips each year (one over winter break and one over spring break) where teams of students travel to a new community and perform short-term volunteer projects during school breaks. The focus of each trip ranges from improving social conditions of those in need, to working with the disabled, to working on environmental improvement projects. This year’s trips are shaping up to be especially exciting!

OCE Alternative Break Mission
To serve as an opportunity for students to engage in fun, educational, service-based trips, by taking them out of their college community and immersing them into new realms of society and service. To heighten social awareness, provide for personal development, and group building. To advocate life-long civic involvement.

Please check out our website at www.umt.edu/dhc/occe for a detailed history of the Alternative Breaks program and other information about the Office for Civic Engagement.

Project Description
Volunteer with various nonprofit organizations in Hollywood working to alleviate chronic hunger & homelessness and earn two (2) winter session credits.

We will be working with the DOOR (Discovering Opportunity for Outreach & Reflection) Organization located in Hollywood California.

  o  Pre-Trip Meetings on December 3rd and December 11th from 5:00-6:00.
  o  The mandatory honors college seminar will run January 6th-8th from 10:00-1:00 plus an additional reflection session January 19th from 10-1.
  o  Students will leave January 9th and return January 16th.
  o  The cost for this trip will be less than $200 for participants including, travel expenses, room and board, and service opportunities. Not included
are tuition costs (if you are in the flat spot, this should not be a problem) and food while on the road.

**Mandatory Course Description**

Aside from a wonderful service-learning and travel opportunity, this winter trip includes a special winter session honors course (mandatory for participants) titled *Service Learning: HONR 270, covering topics related to social responsibility and social problem-solving*. Participants will earn 2 honors-level, upper division credits available without prerequisites. The only requirements are that you are part of the Alternative Break group and are willing to learn in a new and exciting way. The course is designed around this year’s social service programs about *homelessness/hunger/poverty issues*. The course and programs should appeal to a wide variety of social service and human behavior majors including Social Work, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Education, Philosophy, and Non-Profit Management. There will be a *4-6 page paper* due for this course, as well as a *reflective journal*. Remember, you must take this course to participate in the program.

**Financial Information**

Please note there are student costs associated with these trips. The Office for Civic Engagement is a non-profit, UM organization. Any money collected will be used to cover the costs of room and board, and transportation, and are supplemented by minimal funding from ASUM. If you are accepted into the trip, you will be required to make a deposit of ½ of the student cost of logistical fees, with the remaining ½ due no later than two weeks before the trips departure. There will be no refunds if you choose to withdraw from the trip after the final payment to the organization has been made.

Thank you for your interest in the Alternative Breaks Program. We look forward to working with you! If you have any questions about this trip (or any of our services and projects) contact us anytime.

Kellie Hofstetter  
Alternative Breaks Coordinator  
kellie.hofstetter@umontana.edu
Alternative Winter Break Participant Application

Please complete all portions of this application, including the release of liability for your selected trip, the drug and alcohol policy, and the questionnaire.

Name____________________________________________ Age___________________________

E-mail address_______________________________________Phone________________________

Street Address___________________________________________________________________

Student I.D.______________________Major_____________ Year__________________

Allergies and/or medical problems_________________________________________________

Emergency contact __________________________ Relationship_______________________

Phone____________________Address______________________________________________

Health Insurance Company and Policy Number_______________________________________

How did you hear about the Alternative Break Program? ___________________________________

Time commitment as a participant:

* Two pre-trip meetings
* Fundraising (if the group decides to do so)
* Class Attendance (January 6th-8th and Jan 19th)
* Writing a reflective journal
* A follow up assignment (due the week after the trip)
* One reflection meeting after winter break (Jan 19th)

-more on back-
RELEASE OF LIABILITY

WHEREAS, I wish to participate in the Alternative Winter Break program with the University of Montana by working with DOOR, and enjoying various sites on the way to and from the site; and,

WHEREAS, I understand that my work will consist of contributing to the improvement of the Community with DOOR in Hollywood, CA; and,

WHEREAS, I understand that I will be living in the DOOR Housing and various other places on the way down and back from Missoula; and,

WHEREAS, I understand and recognize that there exists the possibility and risk of bodily injury to me or damage to my property while traveling to and from Missoula MT, and during my stay in Hollywood CA, and my participation in the program; and,

WHEREAS, I understand that my participation in the Alternative Break program is voluntary.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the University of Montana allowing me to participate in this voluntary Alternative Break program, I hereby release, relieve, and hold harmless The University of Montana, its trustees, officers, employees, and representatives from any liability or claim of liability, including liability for bodily injury or property damage arising out of or in connection with my participation in the Alternative Break Program, including my travel to, from and around the location where I will be residing and working during the program, except such liability or claim of liability as may result from the gross negligence on the part of the University of Montana.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read this release of liability and am signing it voluntarily.

___________________________________________
Signature and Date

___________________________________________
Printed Name and SSN/Student ID#
*All participants must read and sign the drug and alcohol policy and initial that they understand what will be expected of them.

**Alternative Breaks Drug and Alcohol Policy**

As these are University sanctioned service-learning projects, students MUST follow the University of Montana’s alcohol and drug policy and conduct themselves in a manner according to the Student Conduct Code. For more information see UM’s drug and alcohol policies in the publication, “With Your Personal Safety in Mind.” Print copies are available in the offices of Public Safety, ASUM and the Vice President for Student Affairs or by going to <http://www.umt.edu/studentaffairs>. The Student Conduct Code is also available from these sources. The Office of Civic Engagement prohibits illegal drug and alcohol use in violation of applicable laws and UM policy; and conditions participation in the Office of Civic Engagement on compliance with these laws and policies. Persons who violate these laws and policies will be removed from the program.

*By signing below, I agree to follow the University of Montana’s Alcohol and Drug policy and the Student Code of Conduct while participating in all parts of the Alternative Breaks Program.*

________________________________________________________
Signature and Date

________________________________________________________
Printed Name and Student ID#

**Additional Requirements of the Alternative Breaks Program**

Indicate your understanding and acceptance of these requirements by placing your initials next to each item. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in removal from the program.

1. ________ All participants are expected to be ready to work on time each working day, and to contribute a full day of activity as per the program schedule. “Working” hours are considered from **8am until 6pm** (this may be adjusted for your specific program) on all service days. This includes service work, meal preparation, and reflection activities.

2. ________ Participants are not allowed to miss any days of service for any reason excluding sickness or very serious family emergencies.

3. ________ All participants are expected to participate in daily group-reflection activities. These activities will follow your day of service, and are important to help participants incorporate what they have learned. They should last no less than 15 minutes, and every participant should have a chance to contribute. These activities are incorporated into “working hours.”
Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. The only correct answers are honest answers! Please type your answers on a separate sheet of paper and attach them.

1.) Please describe your past community involvement experience.

2.) Why are you interested in participating in an Alternative Break Trip?

3) What skills and qualities will you bring to the group and to the experience and what do you hope to gain?

4) Please describe, as colorfully as you feel appropriate, your ideal break. Your response does not need to have anything to do with this program (although it just might!) and can be as fantastic as you wish. Be creative.

5) [OPTIONAL] If you are interested in being a site leader, a position with more responsibility and leadership, please note this in your application and give a quick overview of why you think you would be a good fit.

Please turn in applications ASAP, no later than November 2nd 2015. Programs are filled on a first come first serve basis. Participants will be notified as soon as they are selected.