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 are collaborating with the ASUM student group Volunteers in Action to bring you the Alternative Breaks Program. Alternative Breaks coordinates two to four trips every year 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!

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 http://www.umt.edu/civic-engagement/ for a detailed history of the Alternative Breaks program and other information about Civic Engagement.

Project Description
Volunteer with various nonprofit organizations in Hollywood working to alleviate chronic hunger and homelessness and earn 2 Winter session credits.

We will be working through the DOOR (Discovering Opportunity for Outreach & Reflection) Organization located in Hollywood California. Trip commitments include:

- Pre-Trip Meetings on November 10th and December 1st from 5:00-6:00.
- The mandatory honors-college seminar will run from January 4th-6th from 10:00-1:00 and will meet again on Jan 17th from 10:00-1:00.
- Students will leave for Hollywood Jan 7th and return by Jan 15th.
- The cost for this trip will be around $300 for participants including, travel expenses, room and board. Final total costs will depend on the number of participants.
Not included in the trip fee is the food you will eat while on the road to California (road food) and tuition for the 2 credit seminar which will fall under your Spring tuition bill.

**Mandatory Course Description**

Aside from a wonderful service-learning and travel opportunity, the winter trips include a special Winter session honors-course (mandatory for participants) entitled *Service Learning: HONR 270, covering topics related to social responsibility and social problem-solving*. These are 2 honors-level 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, transportation, and program fees and are supplemented by minimal funding from ASUM. We have also secured additional funding from private donors to help keep the cost of the trip down. 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 or any of our services and projects contact us anytime.

Grady Matter  
Alternative Breaks Coordinator  
gardy.matter@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 4th-6th and 17th)
* Writing of a reflective journal while volunteering
* Final reflection paper due a week after your return

-more on back-

Office for Civic Engagement, Alternative Breaks Program, Davidson Honors College 015, Missoula, MT 59812, 243-5531
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] There is an opening for a site leader. The Alternative Breaks Coordinator (Grady Matter) will fill one of these roles, but it is necessary to have one more. If you are interested in more responsibility and leadership experience please note this in your application and give a quick overview of why you think you would be a good fit.

Turn in applications ASAP, no later than October 25, 2016. Programs are filled on a first come first serve basis. Participants will be notified as soon as they are chosen.

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