

Alternative Spring Break

Spring 2016 Participant Application Packet

Alternative Spring Break Basics

Harper College Alternative Spring Break is a program of the Office of Student Involvement that facilitates service immersion experiences for students to serve with and in diverse communities, learn about social justice issues, and become lifelong active citizens.

Student Leadership & Civic Engagement is an Associate Member of Break Away, a national not-for-profit organization. As an Associate Member, it is our privilege to uphold the core philosophies of Break Away, including the **Eight Components of a Quality Alternative Break**.

Eight Components of a Quality Alternative Break (Source: Breakaway)

Strong Direct Service

Programs provide an opportunity for participants to engage in direct or "hands-on" service that addresses critical but unmet social needs.

Orientation

Participants are oriented to the mission and objectives of both the break program and the host agency or organization with which they will be working.

Education

Programs establish and achieve educational objectives to give participants a sense of context and understanding of both the region in which they will be working and of the problems they will be addressing during the break.

Training

Participants are provided with adequate training in skills necessary to carry out tasks and projects during the trip. Ideally this training should take place prior to departure, although in some instances it may occur once participants have reached their site.

Reflection

During the trip, participants reflect upon the experiences they are having. Applying classroom learning and integrating many academic disciplines should also occur. The site leaders should set aside time for reflection to take place, both individually and in a group setting.

Reorientation

Upon return to campus, there should be a re-orientation session for all participants where they can share their break experiences with one another and with the greater campus community and are actively encouraged to translate this experience into a life-long commitment to service.

Diversity

Strong Alternative Break programs include participants representing the range of students present in the campus community. Coordinators should recruit, design, implement and evaluate their program with this end in mind.

Alcohol and Other Drug Free

Programs must be aware that issues of legality, liability, personal safety and group cohesion are of concern when alcohol and other drugs are consumed on an Alternative Break. Programs should provide education and training on alcohol and other drug related issues as well as develop a policy on how these issues will be dealt with on an Alternative Break.

What is the role of a participant?

Alternative Spring Break offers students the opportunity to serve outside the Chicago metro area while deeply exploring a social issue and building lasting relationships. For participation in an alternative break to be rewarding, it requires commitment and dedication. Participants will attend regular trip meetings where they will get to know their fellow trip members and become educated about the social issue addressed by their service. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a pre-trip service project where they will start to learn about the nature of spring break service. After returning from spring break, students will participate in post-trip reflection.

- All participants must be currently enrolled Harper College students, in good academic and behavioral standing with the College.

Important Dates and Commitments

The following items are important to ensure quality preparation for the upcoming year with the Harper College Alternative Spring Break.

Friday, December 4: Participant application due

All applications must be submitted to the Office of Student of Involvement, Building A, Room 336

Wednesday, December 9: - Friday, December 11: Applicant interviews

Applicants will be interviewed by the Selection Committee

Monday, December 14: ASB participants selected

Friday, December 18: Trip payment due

A non-refundable payment of \$100 is due to secure space on the trip. Checks should be made out to **Harper College** with the subject line **Alternative Spring Break**.

Thursday, January 14, TBA: Participant Kick-Off (Mandatory)

Participants will come together to meet their Trip Advisor and other participants. During the kick-off participants will begin to familiarize themselves with both the issue focus of the alternative break and other participants.

TBA

There will be one additional trip meeting in February and one local group service project. These are mandatory for all participants.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Harper College strives to provide effective, reasonable accommodations for students. Please contact the office of ADS, D-119, 847-925-6266, ads@harpercollege.edu to discuss any needed accommodations.

Trip Costs

The HCASB program fee includes transportation to the destination and service site, lodging, most meals, educational and cultural community engagement activities, a t-shirt, and the participant kickoff meeting.

All payments are non-refundable after deadline.

The HCASB fees DO NOT include background check (if required by agency), meals in transit, souvenirs, extra snacks or special food, or group excursions that are not educational in nature.

Payment Information

Participants will be responsible for submitting their payments by the stated deadlines.

A non-refundable payment of \$100 is due by Friday, **December 18** to secure space on the trip.

Checks should be made out to **Harper College** with the subject line **Alternative Spring Break**.

Policy Regarding Refunds

HCASB does NOT issue refunds except in the case of an emergency to be evaluated by the Trip Advisor. If an unavoidable emergency occurs, you must immediately notify the Trip Advisor of your decision to leave the trip. If you choose to pursue a refund based on an emergency situation you must contact Chris George at cgeorge@harpercollege.edu within 48 hours of your decision to drop from the trip. All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing and include your name, HCASB trip, and documentation of the unavoidable emergency. No refunds will be issued without documentation. Emergencies do not include decisions that you made to pursue other activities. There will be no refunds for any student dismissed from the program for reasons of misconduct or failure to comply with Harper College policies.

Trip Information

(March 18 – 23, 2016)

Cincinnati Urban Experience

Mission

The mission of the Cincinnati Urban Experience (CUE) is to provide participants with a combined experience of meaningful service and social justice education that will motivate them to become active in the fight to end poverty and homelessness.

Overview

The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless coordinates service opportunities while educating and immersing groups in an urban environment. GCCH arranges for service opportunities at many of its 50 member agencies. Days during CUE are spent volunteering at local homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other agencies that provide services for the area's homeless population. GCCH also provides educational activities so participants can learn about the root causes of homelessness and poverty. All participants will have the opportunity to hear from speakers, participate in team-building activities, and reflect on how they can get involved in dispelling myths and creating empathy rather than apathy. While doing service and being educated, students are taught the importance of advocacy to promote systematic change.

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Major: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Year: _____

Harper ID: _____

DOB: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____ Gender*: _____ Ethnicity*: _____
*Optional

How did you hear about Harper College Alternative Spring Break?

Essay Questions

- 1) Why are you interested in participating in the Harper College Alternative Spring Break?
- 2) What do you hope to learn by going on the trip?
- 3) What do you hope to contribute by going on the trip?
- 4) What strengths and weaknesses will you bring to your Alternative Spring Break team?

My signature below authorizes an official check of my college records to ensure that I am a student in good academic and behavioral standing. It also certifies that I have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions stated in the application

Print Name

Date

Signature

If you have any questions please contact us at studentleadership@harpercollege.edu

Alternative Spring Break Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able:

- To explain the unique history and culture of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless through their individual and group reflections and follow-up focus group.
- To identify the environmental, political, socioeconomic and social factors that has impacted the growth, development and culture of the site through their individual and group reflections, and follow-up focus group.
- To explain how everyday leaders and citizens shape their community and the world in which we live through individual and group reflections and the follow-up focus group.
- To explain the importance of advocacy to promote systemic change through their individual and group reflections, and follow-up focus group.
- To identify the root causes of homelessness and poverty through educational activities, speakers, and films.
- To demonstrate the Social Change Model of Leadership during the immersion experience through various types of individual and group reflection and observation.
- To explain the complex nature of community engagement and community building as a function of responsible leadership and global citizenship through their individual and group reflections, and focus group.
- To demonstrate proficient teamwork, communication skills and leadership development as an active citizen throughout the immersion experience and upon returning to Harper College through observation, reflection, survey, and follow-up with students six months later to assess their progress in those areas.