Amazing Breaks 2014

Fairfield University’s

*Alternative* Spring Break Experience
What are Amazing Breaks?

- Each year during spring break, Fairfield University students volunteer for a week of service in various areas of the United States. Campus Ministry sponsors these exciting and challenging programs, which seek to embody the University’s commitment to the service of faith and the promotion of justice.
- Amazing Breaks are a Fairfield tradition!
While on the trips, participants perform a variety of duties such as:

• critical home repairs, serving at soup kitchens, tutoring school children, offering hospitality to the elderly, engaging in the culture.

• Groups work by day while evenings are dedicated to reflection, discussion and down time.
Volunteer Expectations

- Our mission is to learn about the societal realities that promote marginalization and share them with others, discuss the injustices that create poverty and consider a faith perspective on social justice.
- COMMITMENT OF:
  - Time
  - Faith deepening/exploration
  - Raising money and awareness
Time commitment

• Once applicants are selected, groups meet regularly until departure – once each week starting next semester.
• **TRIP MEETINGS ARE MANDATORY.**
Formation

- Each participant will be invited to share in reflection and discussion. We ask everyone to be prepared to contribute and engage with the group. People of all faiths, those seeking and those with no faith tradition are welcome on the trips and encouraged to explore their faith further; all you need is a willingness!

“God doesn't require us to succeed; he only requires that we try.”
- Mother Teresa
Fundraising

- Each participant will need to raise a significant amount of money. We encourage volunteers to raise this money by seeking support from family, friends, employers, home parish community, etc. through a letter writing campaign and fundraising activities planned by your group. (examples of group fundraisers: late-night pizza sales and Sunday breakfast in res halls, dorm storms, bake sales).
2014’s alternative breaks:

- Rural Renewal, Kentucky
- Urban Plunge!, Washington, DC
- Food Justice, Immokalee, FL
- Rebuild & Restore, New Orleans, LA
Rural Renewal
Christian Appalachian Project, KY

- CAP encompasses community, service and spirituality. Surrounded by the beauty of the Appalachian mountains, “WorkFest” allows you to devote your time and energy to improve the homes of Appalachian residents and immerse yourself in the culture while learning about the injustices and realities of poverty they face throughout their lives.
- COST: $350
**Food Justice, Immokalee, FL**

- Gain insight into various cultures and experiences that comprise the unique fabric of America. Work with local agencies in Immokalee to learn about and assist with immigration issues facing tomato pickers and their families who come to Florida with the promise of earning fare wages only to be oppressed and even enslaved by their employers.

- **COST: $600**
Urban Plunge! Washington, DC

- Become part of the solution to societal problems by demonstrating how even the smallest action can make a difference in the lives of others through meaningful volunteer work and reflection. In teams, students volunteer at different sites around the city. Volunteers prepare and serve meals at soup kitchens, provide recreational activities and companionship for children, and distribute food to the elderly.

- COST: $350
Rebuild & Restore, New Orleans, LA

- The mission of The Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal is to restore faith, home and community to victims of Hurricane Katrina. They bring renewed hope as they rebuild homes, churches and schools in New Orleans and the surrounding area. Work includes gutting houses, drywall, painting, landscaping, etc. You will also engage in dialogue about the role of race in the rebuilding and recovery process. The program connects volunteers with opportunities to address the needs of the community.

- COST: $600
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Application deadline: Monday, November 4, 2013, 11:59 PM
2. Submit completed application including:
   a. $100 deposit and
   b. two references (employers, teachers, church, etc. References from RAs not accepted)
3. Sign up for an interview at Campus Ministry when dropping off application!
4. Interviews mid- November
5. Decision before Thanksgiving
“Amazing Breaks”
the alternative spring break

Guaranteed to be one of the most memorable weeks of your life...

It’s the spring break trip you’ll be PROUD to tell mom about!