Amazing Breaks 2015

Fairfield University’s Spring Break Immersion 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
  - Live simply
  - No cell phones (International)
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!
- Openness to building community among team members.

“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).
2015’s spring break immersions:

- Rural Renewal, Kentucky
- Urban Plunge!, Los Angeles, CA
- Navajo Water Project, Albuquerque, NM
- Border Crisis, Tuscon, AZ
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
Urban Plunge! Los Angeles, CA

- See Homeboy and Homegirl Industries programs in action, gain a better understanding of how the social enterprises work, and discover the sense of community that exists for the young men and women who come through the doors seeking to leave their gang involvements behind and find hope for their futures. We will also volunteer with other life giving and sustaining organizations in the LA area such as the Downtown Women’s Center, Proyecto Pastoral and Union Rescue Mission.

- COST: $650
Navajo Water Project, Albuquerque, NM

- Water is an extremely limited and precious resource in the dry and nearly barren environment of the Eastern Navajo Nation. The Mission delivers water to the homes of residents who lack mobility, due to advanced age or lack of transportation, to obtain their water. The Mission is often the last best hope for the Navajo as they struggle to maintain health, wellness and dignity amidst poverty as they survive the hardships of daily life on the Eastern Navajo Nation. We will assist in providing direct, life-sustaining, assistance to the Navajo people including water, food, clothing, home repair, housing assistance, and home visitation services.

- COST: $650
Border Crisis Tuscon, AZ

- Our delegation will learn about SB 1070, meet with the Border Patrol, walk through the desert with Samaritans to leave water for travelers on the migrant trail, visit with organizations that provide assistance to migrants, create community-based alternatives, advocate for just policies, and much more. You will meet with people that are directly affected by current economic and immigration policies, and you’ll be given tools and resources to work for justice.

- COST: $650.
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Application deadline: **Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 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!