Applications are open until we fill all of our spots!

This application is for XAVIER FACULTY AND STAFF ONLY. Students should use the participant or site leader forms.

What is an Alternative Breaks Learning Partner?
A Learning Partner is a faculty/staff member or Graduate Assistant employed by Xavier University. The learning partner is not in charge of the Alternative Breaks trip, but rather serves as a resource while students plan meetings, reflections, and facilitate the trip itself. The Learning Partner is an active participant who:

1. Adds educational value to the trip by contributing his/her life and professional perspective
2. Is a mature influence to encourage students to make wise decisions
3. Serves as a resource for trip leaders by providing advice and/or support
4. Builds relationships with student trip leaders and participants while in a non-traditional role
5. Steps up in case of emergency as the University representative and works with students site leaders, the AB Advisor, and local partners to bring the situation to resolution (further training is provided*).

*Traveling with Alternative Breaks is to be counted as time worked, not vacation time per the President's Office.

Alternative Breaks strives to be a diverse and inclusive community. Therefore, we are accepting video applications that will cover the same content, just in a different format. If you would prefer submitting a video application, please contact Emma Reger, AB Membership Chair, at alternativebreaks@xavier.edu.

General Information

MISSION STATEMENT:
Xavier University's Alternative Breaks empowers and challenges all involved to understand his/her relationship with the global community through direct service, education, and reflection, while encouraging personal growth, social awareness and active citizenship.

Eligibility Requirements

What is an Alternative Breaks Learning Partner?
A Learning Partner is a faculty/staff member or Graduate Assistant employed by Xavier University. The learning partner is not in charge of the Alternative Breaks trip, but rather serves as a resource while students plan meetings, reflections, and facilitate the trip itself. The Learning Partner is an active participant who:

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Important Application Directions:
1. Please fill out the application below and submit.
2. Please fill out and return the faculty/staff supervisor approval form which will be emailed to you after submitting the orgsync application. This form should be turned in at the Center for Faith and Justice Room 310 of the Gallagher Student Center or emailed as a PDF file to Annie Tobler (toblera@xavier.edu) with the subject line “AB Learning Partner Application.”

First and Last Name [Required]
Please enter name as written on license or passport.

Cell Phone Number [Required]
This MUST be a CELL phone number that you will be able to answer during alternative breaks travel.
Valid input:
- must be 10-15 digits long and may include only numbers, hyphens, and spaces.

Xavier/Work Phone Number [Required]
Valid input:
- must be 10-15 digits long and may include only numbers, hyphens, and spaces.
Email Address [Required]

What is your employee status at Xavier? [Required]
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

[ ] Full-time, exempt employee
[ ] Full-time, non-exempt employee
[ ] Part-time, exempt employee
[ ] Part-time, non-exempt employee
[ ] Graduate Assistant
[ ] Other
[ ] Student

What is your position at Xavier? [Required]
Please list your title and department. If you answered “other” above, also include a description of your employee status here.

Banner ID [Required]

Gender [Required]
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

[ ] Male
[ ] Female
[ ] Other
[ ] Choose not to respond

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) [Required]

Please select which statement applies to you about being a driver for the AB trip. [Required]
Many AB trips travel by 15-passenger van, to, from, and around their sites. AB provides our drivers with university insurance and van-driver training.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

[ ] I am willing to drive and have already been van-trained.
[ ] I am willing to drive but have not been van-trained yet.
[ ] I prefer not to drive.

If you have previously been on an AB trip, list them here.

What is your level of proficiency in Spanish? [Required]
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

[ ] None
[ ] Elementary
[ ] Intermediate
[ ] Fluent

How comfortable are you with a trip involving manual labor? [Required]
Rank with 1 being very comfortable to 5 being not at all.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

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Please list any dietary restrictions or allergies.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

If you have expressed interest in an international Alternative Breaks trips, please apply for a passport immediately if you do not have one. If you already have a passport, check to make sure that it expires no earlier than April 2019. If your passport expires before April 2019, please apply for a new passport immediately. All flights for Alternative Breaks trips are booked before Winter Break and if you do not have a passport at the time flights are being booked, a ticket cannot be purchased for you and you will be unable to go on the Alternative Breaks experience. Alternative Breaks will not reimburse any participants at any time for the costs associate with obtaining a passport or for health screens and vaccinations necessary before travel. All costs for international travel are paid for by the Site Leader including any medicines needed. Please consider the added expenses that may accrue when participating in an international trip.

Would you like to be considered for an international trip? [Required]
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

Shirt Size [Required]
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

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[ ] L
[ ] XL
[ ] XXL

If yes, do you already have a valid passport or the means to get a valid passport before Winter Break? [Required]
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

Fundraising & Participant Payments

Learning Partners participate on AB free of charge. We ask that Learning Partners still participate in some fundraising with the group but do not require any specific goals for you.

Trip Preferences

The Alternative Breaks Board does their best to place as many participants as possible on trips in which they are most interested to participate. To facilitate this process, please consider the following scale and use the numbers to rate each of this year’s trips accordingly. Note: All trips are tentative and subject to change, as the year progresses.

**Alternative Breaks focuses on educating participants on a variety of social justice issues so please read all descriptions.**

Important Notes to Consider:

Please consider your level of interest for each trip individually.

If you fail to rank the trips, the Alternative Breaks will rank trips for you.

Although faculty/staff fees for participation are waived Alternative Breaks is not able to cover the additional costs associated with obtaining a passport or any medical fees for travel.

Scale for Ranking Trips:

I would be Excited, Eager, Enthused and MORE to go on this trip.
I would be Excited and Eager to go on this trip (but a little less than number 1).
I would be Happy to go on this trip.
I would go on this trip if my other choices are full.
I do not want to be considered for this trip (this includes any trip(s) you have previously participated in, since you are ineligible to return to the same site twice).

You can find a list of our 2019-2020 Spring trips here: https://www.xavier.edu/alternativebreaks/where-we-are-headed.

A Glimpse of Homelessness [Required]
This trip is an immersion into a different culture or lifestyle. This immersion experience will allow participants to hear personal stories from men living without a home and experience that reality for a short time. Participants will live as an individual experiencing homelessness, while coming to understand the struggles, adversities, and generosity found on the streets. Additionally, participants will work with a local organization helping people overcome homelessness through a warm meal and other practical assistance.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

An Inside Look at Prison Injustice [Required]
The service of this trip includes a large amount of personal interaction as service. Participants will learn about the prison justice system alongside residents of a halfway house. This urban immersion experience will allow opportunity to work with youth as part of an afterschool program. Participants will also gain a unique perspective by touring an active prison and meeting with various employees.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

Embracing Different Abilities [Required]
Participants will partner with L'Arche, a community that offers participants a chance to engage with adults with cognitive disabilities through service, education, and companionship. Participants will be able to interact with core members and staff in the community to better understand how these incredible individuals can enhance, challenge, and create an impact on society.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

The Effects of Coal Mining in Appalachia [Required]
Much of our region’s electricity is sourced from coal from the Appalachian region. As a result, participants will explore the complex nature of the issue of coal mining, especially the practice of mountaintop removal, coal mining, and the industries’ impact on Appalachian communities. The group will hear first-hand accounts from coal miners, activists, and community members. The group will also visit the sites of interest and enjoy cultural events in the community. Service will likely include helping planting trees on a former mountaintop mine site, trail building, volunteering at homeless shelters, and helping support local tourism efforts. This trip includes a lot of outdoor time including some active and strenuous activities.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

Urban Schools Within a Large Community [Required]
The service of this trip includes a large amount of personal interaction as service. Participants will work with an organization dedicated to school and neighborhood improvement through the implementation of community learning centers. By working in public schools throughout the school day as well as after, participants will see how public schools can become the hub of educational, cultural, recreational, and health partnerships within a community.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.
Then and Now: The Effects of Civil Rights Movements on Our Past and Present [Required]
Participants will travel to one of the most important cities of the Civil Rights era, where they will not only learn about past historical movements, but experience their lasting impact through direct service and education. Participants will also gain a deeper understanding of what civil rights struggles look like today by working within the community’s neighborhoods and schools.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

Simple Living and Appalachian Culture [Required]
Participants will immerse themselves in life an Appalachian holler to learn firsthand about the many causes of the region’s poverty, economic disparities, and environmental challenges as well as learning of the richness of the culture. Participants will engage in hands-on physical labor including building structures, yard work, farming, chopping wood, etc. Accommodations will be rustic.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

The Rights and Welfare of Animals [Required]
Participants will be working at an animal sanctuary where they will be assisting the host organization in maintaining their property. This service will require moderate to high levels of manual labor and physical activity. Participants will have the opportunity to work alongside rescued animals and will participate in various educational/cooking classes throughout the week. Participants must be willing to maintain a vegan lifestyle for the week out of respect for the community with which they will be working.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

Refugee Resettlement in America [Required]
The service of this trip includes a large amount of personal interaction as service. Participants will be educated on what it means to be a refugee living in America today by interacting directly with refugee families through community outreach programs, employment mentoring, and new home refurbishing. The combination of education and interaction will enable participants to shed light on this controversial issue and make human connections.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

Elderly Living in America [Required]
The service of this trip includes a large amount of personal interaction as service. Through direct service at a nursing and rehabilitation center, as well as at a continuing care retirement center, participants spend spring break investigating the challenges and opportunities of elderly living the United States.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.
Substance Abuse: Prevention and Treatment Education [Required]
The service of this trip includes a large amount of personal interaction as service. Participants will explore the issue of substance abuse and the effect that it has on individuals, families, and communities. Participants will labor on a rehabilitation farm, performing tasks alongside the men in recovery that live there. The host organization focuses on community outreach, prevention, and treatment.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

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Immigration: A Look Into a Difficult Journey [Required]
Participants will investigate the many factors involved in the immigration process. Both sides of the issue will be challenged in group discussion and personal reflection after visiting sites that work with undocumented immigrants on a daily basis, such as shelters for immigrants, a court house, and border patrol. This highly educational immersion will allow participants to explore the many grey areas of the topic and truly give immigration a face and name to evaluate personal and political viewpoints.
Passport might be necessary.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

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Securing Food in an Urban Population: [Required]
The service of this trip includes a large amount of personal interaction as service. Participants will advance healthy food access by working with organizations committed to involving local residents from seed to sale to plate. Service will include working with a variety of organizations including urban farms and a resource program working to restore the community’s connection with the environment and its food sources. The trip will explore long-term solutions to hunger through direct service on urban farms as well as in the food banks and soup kitchens.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

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Conservation of our Native Ecosystems [Required]
This trip includes service that is more physically demanding. This trip is an immersion into a different culture or lifestyle.
On this trip participants will learn about the threats posed by invasive species, the on-going history of an exceptional ecosystem, and the importance of conserving biodiversity. Through exposure to various facets of an ecosystem and partnering with a local conservancy participants will get a unique understanding of conservation efforts and her or his role in the preservation of local environments.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

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Exploring the Roots of our Nations [Required]
The service of this trip includes a large amount of personal interaction as service. Participants will gain insight into the lives of Native Americans by learning about their history, culture, and living conditions on the reservation. Through direct service, participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with members of the tribe. Projects may include building ramps, restoring bunk beds, skirting trailers, and chopping firewood. Additional educational opportunities include evening speakers and tours around the reservation.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

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### Discovering Realities of Post-War Communities [Required]
Participants will be immersed in a culture with historic and direct ties to the United States and the Jesuits. Participants will be exposed to a variety of issues that this particular community faces including both economic and human rights issues. There will be opportunity to work with local human rights and religious leaders, government officials, farmers, laborers, and youth in both an urban center and a homestay in a rural community.

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### Immigrant and Workers' Rights [Required]
Participants will live and work in an immigrant farming community in the United States. Through homestays with families, working beside farmers, and cultural community activities participants will have the opportunity to learn the importance of history, culture, and a commitment to justice as a community. This trip requires physical labor.

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### Leadership, Understanding, and Allyship in the LGBTQIA+ Community [Required]
Participants will meet with numerous organizations in order to learn about different support systems set in place to aid members of the LGBTQIA+ community in contending common misconceptions by building stronger relationships with one another. Through presentations and volunteer work, participants will better understand different forms of community outreach, becoming more effective allies and/or members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

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### Food Security: From Seed to Table [Required]
This trip offers a deeper look into the supply and accessibility of food across our nation, and offers a further look into conditions related to food manufacturing and its affects among those in our nation.

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- must select a value.

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### Gentrification: Intersectionality of Race & Class in an Urban Environment [Required]
Participants will be working with organizations committed to involving local residents to larger social justice issues. The focus primarily is on the intersectionality of race and class in an area of the city that is currently experiencing gentrification.

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- Select only one choice.
- must select a value.

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### Open Response Questions

The Alternative Breaks Board requests you type your responses each question has a limit of 500 characters max.

In the spirit of the following Learning Partner Expectations section, please list any similar experience you may have had with students that would serve you well in this role. [Required]

Valid input:
- must contain at least 0 characters.
How would you appropriately handle a situation where the site leaders approach a challenge differently than you would? [Required]

Do you have any other specific skills or experiences that you would bring to the group? (e.g. ability to speak another language, international travel experience, farming skills, carpentry, painting, etc.) [Required]
Many trips are open to all who are enthusiastic to learn, but if you have a particular skill we are excited to make use of it!

Policies

Learning Partner Expectations [Required]
As a faculty/staff member on an Alternative Breaks trip you are asked to:

1. Establish a trusting, well-informed, collaborative relationship with a pair of student site leaders. We value the unique knowledge, advice, and experience you bring to our program and believe it is a necessary part of empowering the student leaders.
2. Education is a major component of an Alternative Breaks trip. We hope you can engage with the student site leaders and participants during the trip to provide a unique and meaningful perspective.
3. Attend regular meetings with site leaders and the whole group in order to keep communication lines open and maintain group dynamics prior to the actual trip.
4. Share legal and emergency responsibility with the site leaders. You will need to familiarize yourself with emergency procedures and legality issues associated with your specific trip destination provided by Xavier University and Alternative Breaks. An emergency training session will be provided for site leaders and faculty/staff members in the Spring semester.

Time permitting you are also invited to other AB activities including:
- Fundraisers
- Large/small group service
- Kick Off Parties
- Send Off Festivities
- Post-break Banquet

Much of the planning and organization for each trip is done by a pair of student site leaders. Since you will be working closely with the pair, it is important that you are informed of their roles as well as your own. The following are site leader responsibilities:
- Attend weekly meeting with a Site Leader Coordinator (Member of the AB Board)
- Plan and lead weekly group meetings starting mid-October
- Plan and lead reflections with co-site leader
- Plan and lead education activities both before and after break
- Collaborate with faculty/staff member
- Maintain relationship with site contact
- Collect payments and forms from participants
- Participate in fundraising events
- Keep group on schedule while on break
- Keep track of group funds and travel expenses
- Participate in large group service days
- Handle emergency situations

As a Learning Partner for the 2019-2020 school year, I have read and understood the above expectations and agree to work under the expectations stated.
Valid input:
- Select only one choice.

[ ] I Agree
Alcohol & Illegal Drug Policy [Required]

Alternative Breaks has a “no alcohol or illegal drugs”* policy. This prohibits being under the influence of or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs,* or purchase of any alcohol or illegal drug paraphernalia during any Alternative Breaks sponsored activity including, but not limited to: pre-break meetings, Alternative Breaks group activities, group fundraisers, travel to and from Alternative Breaks sites, and for the duration of Alternative Breaks trips. This policy also includes the purchase of alcohol or illegal drugs*, with or without consumption, during Alternative Breaks trips. Drinking or use of illegal drugs* during the break represents a major liability to yourself, your fellow participants, the AB program, and Xavier University, and is inappropriate while dealing with the social issues of Alternative Breaks sites. Support of this policy by all involved is essential to a safe and socially aware Alternative Break.

Violation of this policy will result in participants being sent home from their Alternative Breaks trip and returning home at their own expense. No refunds will be awarded. In addition, travel expenses already purchased in the participant’s name must be paid back in full. Violators of this policy may be restricted from further participation in Alternative Breaks activities or trips. Participants will also be held accountable to University policies regarding alcohol or illegal drug use.

*Illegal drugs are defined as drugs that are illegal within the United States and/or the country in which you are.

I agree to follow the guidelines and policies of Alternative Breaks as outlined above.

I agree [ ]

Valid input:
- Select only one choice.

Details

Please look out for an email from Lauren Bailey regarding the Learning Partner Faculty/Staff Supervisor Approval Form. This should be completed by Friday, October 26th, 2018 and delivered to Alternative Breaks located inside of the Center for Faith and Justice, GSC Room 310 or emailed as a PDF file to Lauren Bailey (baileyl4@xavier.edu) with the subject line: Learning Partner Approval Form.