

EXPECTATIONS OF 17-18 ALTERNATIVE BREAK LEADERS (ABLs)

Organizing an Alternative Break trip is a rewarding, but complex task that will require you (and your co-ABL) to:

Learn

- Attend all trainings and additional related activities (see AB Dates document)
- Work with your co-Alternative Break Leader (ABL) before, during and after your trip to educate yourself and your team about the issue with which your team will be working
- Prepare and share one 'educational resource' for a training meeting and prepare a reflection activity to go with it
- Every ABL pair will have one office hour per week that will be spent in the CLS office. This time will be for meetings with the AB Graduate Assistant as well as designated time to plan your trip
- ABLs must have and maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA, be in good academic standing with UT, uphold the University standards of conduct and attend ALL required ABL classes

Plan

- Work with co-ABL to plan all logistics for trip (including, but not limited to, securing free housing, service in accordance with your social issue, meal planning, and reflection planning) in accordance with set deadlines
- Understand the importance of 'simple living' and budgeting to ensure that you are good stewards with AB funds.
- Facilitate three (3) pre-trip meetings to educate and engage participants before the trip
- Execute pre or post-trip service (AFB= post trip/ ASB= pre-trip), scheduled by ABSC.
- Help to plan and coordinate at least one fundraising event specific to your trip that concludes at least two weeks before trips depart. Assist with raising awareness and implementation of Alternative Break program wide fundraising events
- Prepare reflection materials and activities to accompany break trip service prior to departure
- Work with your co-ABL to establish a local community service partnership that your team will work with before and after your trip in order to gain a deeper understanding about the social issue of your trip, as well as contribute to the local community
- Keep your trip outlines and "at a glance" schedules up to date
- Watch the van-driving video and obtain experience behind the wheel of 12-passenger wheel on your own time, or when planned by CLS staff member.

Select

- Read and rank all participant applications within the week timeline you are given and work with co-ABL to select participants for your trip

Trust the Process!

- Meet ALL deadlines (not meeting deadlines is grounds for dismissal from your role)
- Remain flexible
- Create a support system with one another (you are part of a larger program, not just responsible for the success of your individual trip)
- Provide support for the program and your trip (advertising, selection, fundraising) even after your trip has ended (you are an ABL for the entire academic year- not just for one semester)
- Plan and execute three (3) re-orientation experiences (service, meetings, etc) after your trip but before classes end in April 2017 (aka 3 experiences in the Fall and Spring for AFB ABLs, and 3 experiences in the Spring for ASB ABLs)

Communicate (*very important!!*)

- Communicate promptly and professionally with service and housing sites, learning partners, and campus partners
- Maintain open and constant communication with co-ABL and AB/CLS staff
- Ensure that university and program policies are upheld at all times during the trip (including alcohol and drug free)
- Respond to all email communication within 48 hours, or less if the matter is urgent
- Maintain confidentiality

It is very important that the role of Alternative Break Leader be a top priority from the time of your selection, through the end of classes in Spring 2018. Being an ABL is not just a 3 or 6 day commitment; it is a year-long commitment and should be taken very seriously. You will gain SO much from your ABL role, but it is important to know that repeated violations of the above expectations can be grounds for dismissal from your leadership role.