

# The Alternative Spring Break Contract

Alternative Spring Break is a service program of the Offices of Campus Ministry and Community Service and Service Learning. Inspired by Ignatius Spirituality and the mission of Saint Peter's College participants strive to: work for justice, serve with those who welcome our company, learn through mutual sharing of cultural experience, understanding and identity, grow personally, spiritually and intellectually in the Jesuit tradition. Alternative Spring Break lives out its mission by preparing a community at Saint Peter's throughout the winter and into the spring to work with poor and the marginalized people of the Appalachian region of the country. We hope that upon returning, the team and its individuals share the experience and new insights with communities at home. To live the mission and achieve the goals of the program we ask each individual to adopt and respect the five pillars of Alternative Spring Break, which have been created for this purpose.

They are:

## Simplicity of Life/Cultural Sensitivity

We ask that you:

- Seek to live the richness of life more simply focused on people and their needs rather than material things.
- Strive to remain open to differences of opinion and behavior as they present themselves in encounters with others.

## Quest for Justice

We ask that you:

- Work with the poor in pursuit of solidarity toward the goal of making change in the world.
- Strive to become just in your own thoughts, language, and actions so that your work for justice will have credibility.
- Seek to know the truth of situations rather than relying on your own prejudices and biases.
- Upon return, make others aware of the need and suffering in the Appalachian communities which you visit, for your mission is not complete until you spread the knowledge.

## Community Living

We ask that you:

- Be open and honest with other community members and be willing to share part of your life with them.
- Take part in the projects/activities including its meetings both before and after the project.
- Do not make decisions that affect the group or the program independently of the project group and Alternative Spring Break.

## **Spirituality**

Alternative Spring Break seeks diversity of faiths and spirituality. We welcome any religion or lack thereof. However, we require that you are open to other's beliefs and are willing to share your own. Regardless of your degree of spirituality,

We ask you:

- To participate in the community time of prayer and reflection, bringing your own gifts of life and experience and cherishing those of others.
- To respect ideals as articulated in the Catholic Jesuit tradition

## **Desire to Learn**

As “men and women for others” and members of a college community, we seek to join faith with reason; understanding of the heart with critical analysis; good will with grounded training. Throughout our preparation, we will be engaged in formal learning: reading, lectures, research and reflection. These prerequisites to Alternative Spring Break service are intended to support your understanding of culture, history, current events and challenges of social justice specific to your site(s) of service. We undertake these efforts both for the preparedness of our participants and as an essential act of respect for the cultures into which we are welcomed.

**Acceptance to the Alternative Spring Break team is both an honor and a responsibility. Please review the following list of regulations prior to applying to the program.**

### **Pre-Project Expectations**

- Participants are required to have a 2.5 GPA or higher in order to be accepted as part of the Alternative Spring Break team. However, if there are extenuating circumstances, please contact Doug Demeo, Campus Ministry.
- Alternative Spring Break demands commitment and reliability. It is important to work together as a team before the trip since you will depend on one another in Appalachia. Upon acceptance to the Alternative Spring Break team, participants will be expected to participate fully in educational sessions, immersion sessions, group fundraisers and occasional special projects. These are mandatory and serve to strengthen the team dynamic.
- If accepted, individuals are personally responsible for raising \$150.00 towards the cost of their trip. You will be provided with a fundraising plan and contract upon acceptance to the Alternative Spring Break team. In the event that a participant is unable to travel to Appalachia, he/she still must pay all non-refundable expenses

incurred on his/ her behalf. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of program directors.

- Travel to and in Appalachia will be physically and mentally demanding. You will not be as effective in your service if you are not physically fit. This may mean that in the months prior to the trip, certain changes in lifestyle (re: eating habits, exercise, and consumption of alcohol) may be necessary.

Remember that all actions of participants reflect upon the larger Alternative Spring Break Program of Saint Peter's College. Therefore, all participants are expected to incorporate the above pillars into their daily practice to the best of their ability, and consider pre-project expectations seriously. In addition, all Alternative Spring Break members are bound by the rules and regulations of the NET both here and in Appalachia. In the event that a participant chooses not to abide by these guidelines and regulations, s/he will be unable to participate in Alternative Spring Break.

By signing below, participants are accepting the pillars of Global Outreach and are agreeing to follow all of the rules and regulations of the program.

\* I have read and understand the above terms and agree to accept them \*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Leader Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Source: Adapted from Fordham University, GO Global Outreach Application