MEMORANDUM

Date: August 2012

To: All Interested Students, Faculty, and Staff

From: Cori Jackson
Director of Campus Activities

Re: Alternative Break Leaders for 2013

Thank you for expressing interest in the Alternative Break program. This memo outlines the information that you need to know about becoming a leader for one of the Alternative Break trips this year. The application is one component of the Alternative Break Leader Training Program that is designed to get you to think about the Alternative Breaks, our vision and goals, and your contributions to the program. It is our intent to use this application as a building block to better prepare you for your duties as an Alternative Break Leader and to provide you with additional resources to help facilitate a meaningful and enjoyable service experience. Alternative Break can be a very rewarding, and sometimes, life changing experience, but it is a challenging commitment. Attached you will find an application form that must be filled out in its entirety in order for you to be considered as a leader. This application is due in Student Activities & Volunteerism (first floor of Angell College Center) on or before Monday, September 17th, 2012. You must also attend an interview session on or before Monday, September 23rd, 2012, which we will schedule with you. All will be held in the Student Activities & Volunteerism Conference Room.

As of this date, we will be offering seven trips this year. Generally, nine student participants and two site leaders will be going to each site.

**Alternative Spring Break 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site #1</th>
<th>Greensboro, GA</th>
<th>Habitat for Humanity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site #2</td>
<td>Toronto, Ontario, Canada</td>
<td>Tim Horton’s Onondaga Farms (building, painting, working w/children)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site #3</td>
<td>Bridgeport, CT</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site #4</td>
<td>Mt. Rogers, VA</td>
<td>Student Conservation Association (Environment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site #5</td>
<td>Bridgeton, NJ</td>
<td>Tri-County Action (Headstart Pre-K Program)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site #6</td>
<td>Georgetown, SC</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site #7</td>
<td>Pursglove, WV</td>
<td>The SHACK (Community Outreach)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Fraternity/Sorority)</td>
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Sleeping accommodations at the sites will range from staying in classrooms to camping to church basements. You will be responsible for bringing a sleeping bag and either an air mattress or sleeping pad. Cooking facilities will be available to us for groups that need to cook their own meals. This means the group will be preparing all their own meals and cleaning up afterwards.
Working with various volunteer agencies is not an easy job, so you must be both flexible and understanding. Some of the work you will be doing will depend on the weather, which might be unpredictable.

As you may or may not know, to be a participant of the Alternative Break Program students must also make a financial commitment. We do not ask Leaders to pay for their trip, but we do ask you to help facilitate your group’s active participation in the fundraising efforts for this program. The overall budget for Alternative Breaks 2013 is about $45,000, a large portion of that money is fundraised by participants and Student Activities & Volunteerism. With everyone’s combined efforts we will be able to raise all of the money.

You also need to know that the Alternative Break Program is drug and alcohol-free. From the time you leave on the trip until the time you arrive back in Plattsburgh, you must agree to live with this standard, and be willing to enforce the policy among your group members. If you think this might pose a problem for you, you might want to consider your involvement with this program. If you would like an explanation, don’t hesitate to stop in or call.

You should be aware that this type of experience is not for everyone (of course you could never really know for sure until you have experienced something of this nature). We want you to think long and hard about your commitment and whether or not you are up for the challenge. Some things you should be thinking about include: long van rides/drives EACH WAY; the living conditions, which includes preparing meals; the lack of privacy for a week; the work, which will be hard both physically and emotionally; and the uncertainty and possible lack of organization of the projects you will be working on once you arrive at your site. As a leader, it is your responsibility to cope with these shifting conditions and provide guidance and support to your participants.

If you come to the conclusion that you want to go on this trip, please fill out the attached application in its entirety. Some of the questions will make you think. This application is meant to help you with your decision making and our training, so please be honest and true to yourself.

We know this is a lot of information. If you have any questions or want to talk about this program, do not hesitate to stop in Student Activities & Volunteerism (first floor Angell College Center) at any time or you can call 564-4830. Good Luck!
ALTERNATIVE BREAKS 2013
SITE LEADER APPLICATION FORM

Name: ________________________________________________

School or Local Address: ___________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: _________________________ Banner ID #: _____________________________

DOB: ___________ Male: _____ Female: _____ T-Shirt Size: ______

E-mail Address: _____________________________________________________________________________

For Students:
Major: _____________________________ Academic Class: _____________________________

For Faculty/Staff:
Department: _____________________________ Position: _____________________________

Please be complete in your responses to the following questions. Answer them on an additional sheet(s) of paper. Please type or print your responses. Take some time to reflect on the questions before answering them. Please be honest when answering these questions. NOTE: If you have been a site leader in the past, you do not need to complete this part of the application.

1) Have you participated in Alternative Spring Break or Alternative Winter Break in the past?    Y / N
If so, how many times and at which sites?

2) Have you been a leader on Alternative Spring Break or Alternative Winter Break in the past?    Y / N
If so, how many times and at which sites?

3) What do you hope to accomplish on an Alternative Break?
What qualities and skills do you possess that would help you do this?

4) What is the role of the leader on an Alternative Break? How would you fulfill that role?

5) What do you think the overall goals of Alternative Break trips should be?

6) What excites you the most about leading a trip of this nature?

7) What challenges might you face leading a trip of this nature? How do you think you might cope with these challenges?

I agree, by signing below, that I will live with and support the program’s standard of being drug and alcohol-free. I also agree to actively encourage and help with fund raising and planning efforts.

_____________________________________________________________________
Signature of Applicant                                                                               Date

1. Once you have completed the entire application, including the above questions, please return everything to Cori Jackson in Student Activities & Volunteerism.
2. All applications are due no later than Monday, September 17, 2012.