



Alternative Service Breaks

2018 Trip & Registration Information



Community Service Center

www.bu.edu/csc | altbreak@bu.edu | 617-353-4710

George Sherman Union, 775 Commonwealth Avenue, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02215

Registration begins Sunday, November 19, 2018, 9 a.m. at www.bu.edu/csc

Alternative Service Breaks

2018 Trip & Registration Information

- I. About Alternative Service Breaks**
- II. What is ASB?**
- III. Registering for ASB**
- IV. 2018 Alternative Service Breaks Trips**

Alternative Service Breaks 2018 is

Gabriella Knox, Program Manager
Albert Jimenez, Program Manager

Andie Spiek, Database & Scholarship Chair
Adia Turner, Social Justice & Education Chair
Brianna Graff, Social Justice & Education Chair
Samantha Santoro, Public Relations & Advertising Chair

Our Coordinator Team, listed below with trips

Zach Hobbs, Director, Community Service Center
Orpheo Speer, Assistant Director, Community Service Center
Zoey Slater, Graduate Intern, Community Service Center

I. About Alternative Service Breaks

Alternative Service Breaks (ASB) seeks to empower the individual through intentional service, personal growth, leadership, and genuine human connection. ASB prioritizes allyship with community partners in order to more deeply understand the social issues of our world and inspire a more empathetic and socially active individual.

ASB promotes community service, develops leadership skills, and creates strong bonds among its participants. Since its founding in 1987, volunteers have the opportunity to take part in an alternative to the traditional spring break. In 2018, students will travel to 29 partner communities in the US and Canada.

Students will:

- **Build community** with a group of BU undergraduates and one graduate student or staff chaperone.
- **Engage** with a host community and community partner organization, learning about the challenges and opportunities that community and organization face and address each day.
- **Learn** about people, places, social change, community development, and both the risk and resilience factors of student groups engaging in service trips.
- **Reflect** critically on their roles as citizens and humans in an increasingly fragmented world.

II. What is ASB?

What is ASB? ASB is Boston University's 29-year-old service immersion spring break program. What began in 1987 with a group of 7 students travelling to Boone, NC has grown to 29 groups of over 300 students travelling across the US and Canada.

Who goes on ASB? Each of the 29 ASB trips is composed of:

- 2 trip coordinators, undergraduate students who work with community and housing partners, plan meals, and facilitate education, reflection, and social activities;
- 1 graduate student or professional staff chaperone who assists in emergencies, ensures Boston University's interests are well represented, and supports the growth of the group; and,
- Between 5 and 13 undergraduate student participants.

What are the dates for ASB 2018? ASB groups will depart Boston on Saturday, March 3, 2018 and return on either Saturday, March 10 or Sunday, March 11, 2018. Groups will not miss any classes on 3/2 or 3/12.

Can I join a trip late or leave a trip early? The general answer is no, but please do reach out to altbreak@bu.edu to describe your specific circumstance **before** registering for a trip. If an emergency occurs, the coordinators and chaperone will ensure you are able to leave at your own expense.

What is the substance-free policy? ASB is a 100% substance free program, even for students over the age of 21. No participants are able to consume alcohol or recreational drugs at any time between departure and return. This policy is zero-tolerance, and students found in violation of this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program to return home at their own expense.

What other policies should I know about? We expect students to adhere to all rules and regulations outlined in [BU's Lifebook](#). Failure to adhere to these policies may result in dismissal from the program at your own expense.

What does my fee cover? Your fee covers food, transportation, supplies, program staffing, service partner fees, pre-break events, and housing partner fees. We try to minimize or eliminate altogether students having to spend any extra money while participating on a trip, though individual groups may choose to take inexpensive excursions.

Are there time requirements other than the trip? Your coordinators will inform you of a mandatory meeting with your group in February which will be scheduled to accommodate everyone's schedule. **Please also save the date for an important meeting on safety, 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, February 20.**

Where will we stay? See the trips section below. Accommodations will be rustic, but all students will have access to basic kitchen and restroom facilities. Most students will stay in church recreation rooms, but others may stay in private homes, dorms, cabins, tents, or hostels.

What will we do? Trips will be a mix of socializing, education, reflection, and service. We ask students to be flexible and approach the experience with an open mind and heart. Most trips will not know their specific projects until shortly before departure, or even on arrival. We encourage you to be flexible, choose organizations based on mission, or even choose something out of your comfort zone. Work ranges from office work, to socializing with community members, to rigorous construction or environmental work.

Why reflect? Education and reflection are equally as important as service in any community engagement program. Through education and reflection, we make meaning of our experiences, explore our successes and shortcomings, and grow and develop as citizens and humans. Reflection allows us to process and unpack the unfamiliar, the unfriendly, and the oppressive, while also celebrating victories. Active participation in coordinator-led education and reflection programs is as important as active participation in service activities.

How will we get there? Trips will travel by 12-passenger van, Greyhound bus, and airplanes:

- **Bus trips** (Montreal, Philadelphia) will board buses at South Station and travel to their destination. They will use mass transit in their destination cities to get around, immersing themselves in the daily lives of these communities.

- **Flying trips** (Antelope Island, Phoenix, Portland, San Francisco) will take a group flight from Logan International Airport to their destination city. Some trips may rent cars to get around upon arrival, while others may use mass transit in their destination cities.
- **Van trips** (All others) will travel in rented vans to their destinations. To ensure the safety of our participants, a number of regulations are in place:
 - Vans may only travel in fair weather conditions and between 6 am and midnight.
 - Drivers and copilots may only drive/copilot in 4-hour shifts with 8-hour breaks between all shifts.
 - Trips with more than 18 hours of driving must stop and stay with a host family for at least 6 hours of rest before continuing their journey.
 - Van drivers must have a valid driver's license and have passed, within the last two years, a 2-loop driving test, a computer exam, a safety presentation, and driver's license check in order to be certified to drive. Our van driver program is a partnership between AlertDriving, a national leader in safe driver training, and BU's Office of Risk Management.

Can I leave a trip to explore? No. Students must remain with their groups at all times. Groups may split up to do grocery shopping or explore a tourist attraction, but at least three members of the trip must be together at all times. If students have friends or family in a destination city, they are welcome and encouraged to host entire groups for a meal.

Is safety a priority? Safety is a priority, and the physical and emotional safety of all participants is at the center of coordinator and chaperone training. All trip leaders also have 24-hour phone access to a member of department leadership, Dean of Students staff, and BU's Student Health Services.

Is ASB life-changing? ASB *can be* life changing. For students who fully immerse themselves in their group, their service partner organization, and their host community, ASB can help students discover new passions, career directions, and even places to live. Choosing to eat like locals, engage with people on volunteer sites and in trip residences, and to participate fully in reflection and education opportunities maximizes our chances to grow through the ASB experience.

III. Registering for Alternative Service Breaks

Please contact altbreak@bu.edu with any questions or concerns at any time in your planning process. We're happy to help you make the best decision and to make ASB work for you.

Registration Basics

- Registration begins at **9 a.m., Sunday, November 19, 2017**, and remains open until all trips are sold out.
- Registration takes place at www.bu.edu/csc/asb
- At the time of registration, please have with you:
 - A valid credit card.
 - Your health insurance information.
- Do not use the “Back” button in your browser while placing your ticket order. You will forfeit your ticket and risk losing your spot on a trip.
- Be aware of our refund policy (see “Refunds” below) before registering.
- Students travelling to Montreal must have a valid passport and feel able to cross a border in and out of the US between 3/3 and 3/11/18.

Fees

- At the time of registration, you will pay a deposit:
 - \$100 for Philadelphia
 - \$500 for Antelope Island, Phoenix, Portland, and San Francisco
 - \$200 for all others
- On a rolling basis, beginning December 11, we will communicate how students should pay their remaining balances, adjusted for any scholarships awarded (see “**Scholarships**” below.)
- Your remaining balance will be due by February 19, 2018.
- Fees partially cover staffing, service partner fees and donations, housing partner fees and donations, food, supplies, and transportation.
- Though trips may agree to eat a meal out or enjoy a recreational opportunity, the program is designed to minimize or eliminate any out-of-pocket expenditures for students between departure from and arrival to campus.

Scholarships

- Need-based (as measured by the Office of Financial Assistance) scholarships of \$50-\$250 are available to students registering for ASB.
- To apply for a scholarship, choose “YES” on the question asking if you are high-financial need and applying for a scholarship. This will allow you to complete a short (<250 words) essay.
- Though scholarships are awarded on a need-basis only, a small number of full- and partial- scholarships donated by our alumni and friends are available to students based on essay responses.

What happens after I register?

- You will immediately receive an email from Eventbrite confirming your purchase. Please email us if you haven't received a confirmation email after an hour.
- Beginning on December 11 and rolling, we will communicate with students, via email, about paying their remaining balance, signing up for van training, and with information about their coordinators and trips.
 - Please be sure your emails are set to receive emails from bucsc@bu.edu, altbreak@bu.edu, and a trip gmail account.
- Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at altbreak@bu.edu if you have any questions or concerns at any time.
- See “Program FAQs” below for more information.

Waitlist

- A waitlist ticket option is available on the ASB order form for students who miss a spot on their preferred trip. (If other trips are available, we very strongly encourage students to take a chance and register for a different experience!)
- If a spot opens up, you will be contacted by phone and email. You will have 24 hours from the earlier point of contact to respond accepting the spot on a trip before we move to the next person on the waitlist.
- We will offer open spots to students on the waitlist until the Monday before Spring Break, February 26, 2018.
- Scholarships may not be available to students selected from the waitlist.

Refunds

- Please contact altbreak@bu.edu if you need to cancel your registration.
- *Before Jan. 5, 2018:* We will be happy to refund you 100% of fees paid.
- *Jan. 5-Feb. 23, 2018:* We will only be able to refund fees paid if we are able to fill your spot with another participant. *Students on flying and bus trips, per policies of individual airlines, will not be entitled to refunds of airplane and bus tickets already purchased.*
- *Feb. 24 or later:* We will be unable to offer refunds of any fees after this date, as all funds will have been sunk into the program. This includes for students who ultimately decide not to attend ASB or miss their scheduled departure.

IV. 2018 Alternative Service Breaks Trips

Quick Reference

Trip	Partner	Type of Work*	Cost
Antelope Island, Utah	Antelope Island State Park	Environment	\$900
Asheville, North Carolina	Brother Wolf Animal Rescue	Animals	\$440
Atlanta, Georgia	Project Open Hand	Public Health, Food Justice	\$440
Chicago, Illinois	Friedman Place	Disabilities	\$440
Crossville, Tennessee	Cumberland Trail Conference	Environment	\$440
Des Moines, Iowa	Iowa Homeless Youth Centers	Youth, Homelessness	\$440
Detroit, Michigan	Ruth Ellis Center	LGBTQ+/Youth	\$390
Greenville, South Carolina	Frazee Dream Center	Youth/Education	\$440
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia	Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	Environment	\$390
Hobe Sound, Florida	Blowing Rocks Preserve	Environment	\$440
Horse Cave, Kentucky	American Cave Conservation	Environment	\$440
Louisburg, North Carolina	Terrell Lane Middle School	Education	\$390
Louisville, Kentucky	Hand in Hand	Urban Development	\$440
Macon, Georgia	Rebuilding Macon	Housing, Homelessness	\$440
Memphis, Tennessee	Serve901	Urban Development	\$440
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Urban Ecology Center	Education, Environment	\$440
Montreal, Quebec	GRIS-Montreal	LGBTQ+	\$440
Nashville, Tennessee	United Cerebral Palsy of Middle TN	Housing, Disabilities	\$440
Natchez, Mississippi	Children's Home	Youth/Education	\$440
New Orleans, Louisiana	Louisiana SPCA	Animals	\$440
Orland, Maine	Homeworkers for More Employment	Housing, Rural Development	\$390
Paris, Virginia	Liberty Hall Livestock Rescue	Animals	\$390
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Little Sisters of the Poor	Elders	\$250
Phoenix, Arizona	International Rescue Committee	Immigrant & Refugee Services	\$900
Portland, Oregon	Sunshine Division	Food Justice, Homelessness	\$900
Roanoke, Virginia	Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway	Environment	\$440
San Francisco, California	The Garden Project	Youth/Education, Food Justice	\$900
Shawnee, Illinois	Shawnee National Forest	Environment	\$440
St. Louis, Missouri	Almost Home + Life Bridge Partnership	Urban Development	\$440

***Partner, specific nature of work, and housing are subject to rare changes.**

Trips by Focus Area

Focus areas refer to the social justice mission of our partner organizations. Specific service activities vary partner-to-partner and year-to-year. Our work will meet the needs of our partner organizations, and specific activities often will not be decided until shortly before we arrive. Please click on the partners above to learn more about their mission and what they do in their communities.

Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asheville, NC• New Orleans, LA• Paris, VA	Community Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Louisville, KY• Memphis, TN• St. Louis, MO
Food Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atlanta, GA• Portland, OR• San Francisco, CA	Homelessness & Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Des Moines, IA• Macon, GA• Orland, ME
Refugee Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phoenix, AZ	Elders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Philadelphia, PA
Disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chicago, IL• Nashville, TN	LGBTQ+ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detroit, MI• Montreal, QC
Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antelope Island, UT• Crossville, TN• Harpers Ferry, WV• Hobe Sound, FL• Horse Cave, KY• Roanoke, VA• Shawnee, IL	Youth & Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenville, SC• Louisburg, NC• Milwaukee, WI• Natchez, MS

Trips by Transportation Type & Cost

\$250 (Bus) Philadelphia

\$390 (Van) Detroit, Harpers Ferry, Louisburg, Orland, Paris

\$440 (Bus) Montreal

\$440 (Van) Asheville, Atlanta, Chicago, Crossville, Des Moines, Greenville, Hobe Sound, Horse Cave, Louisville, Macon, Memphis, Milwaukee, Nashville, Natchez, New Orleans, Roanoke, Shawnee, St. Louis

\$900 (Flying) Antelope Island, Phoenix, Portland, San Francisco

Trips by Housing

Most if not all ASB housing is rustic. In most cases, you will be in a sleeping bag on a floor, mattress, or cot. Your coordinators will provide you with a more detailed packing list and help you find what you need for your trip. Trust us, the rustic, communal ASB accommodations are one of the most fun parts of ASB. All students will have access to restroom and basic kitchen facilities and, yes, a place to charge your phone.

Church- Asheville, Atlanta, Chicago, Des Moines, Detroit, Greenville, Harpers Ferry, Horse Cave, Macon, Milwaukee, Montreal, Nashville, Natchez, New Orleans, Paris, Portland, St. Louis

House- Louisburg, Louisville, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Roanoke, San Francisco

Dorm- Crossville, Memphis

Tent Camping- Hobe Sound

Cabin Camping- Antelope Island, Orland, Shawnee

Trip Coordinators

Trip	Partner*	Coordinators
Antelope Island, Utah	Antelope Island State Park	Ben Woodward, Natalia Tanko Sabrina McDonnell, Bailey Katsumata-Smith
Asheville, North Carolina	Brother Wolf Animal Rescue	
Atlanta, Georgia	Project Open Hand	Paige Hill, Alegria Lanas
Chicago, Illinois	Friedman Place	Dominick Witkowski, Mara Coolidge
Crossville, Tennessee	Cumberland Trail Conference	Akshat Mehta, Kat Hansell
Des Moines, Iowa	Iowa Homeless Youth Centers	Nevil Desai, Willa Pisarski
Detroit, Michigan	Ruth Ellis Center	Andrew Garcia, Anais Han
Greenville, South Carolina	Frazee Dream Center	Gabriella Ademi, Breanna Dooling
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia	Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	Ben Skross, Kelsea Monette
Hobe Sound, Florida	Blowing Rocks Preserve	Julia Correia, Jessica Fuchs
Horse Cave, Kentucky	American Cave Conservation	Jake Mellen, Carly Berke
Louisburg, North Carolina	Terrell Lane Middle School	Wesley Jones, Vyshnavi Parthipan
Louisville, Kentucky	Hand in Hand	Brice Hounshel, Yadira Flores
Macon, Georgia	Rebuilding Macon	Grace Wise, Lubov McKone
Memphis, Tennessee	Serve901	Andy Moeller, Rebecca Bilden
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Urban Ecology Center	Aine Varden, Claire Grossi
Montreal, Quebec	GRIS-Montreal United Cerebral Palsy of Middle TN	Christina Armand, Bradley Noble
Nashville, Tennessee		Emma Bianculli, Jack Moriarity
Natchez, Mississippi	Children's Home	Jasmine Clevenger, Olivia Etienne
New Orleans, Louisiana	Louisiana SPCA Homeworkers for More Employment	Olivia Rainoff, Kayce McCue
Orland, Maine		Julia Pelizzaro, Ruth Dele-One
Paris, Virginia	Liberty Hall Livestock Rescue	Angel Cardamone, Meredith Moore
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Little Sisters of the Poor	Erin Cody, Melissa Inge
Phoenix, Arizona	International Rescue Committee	Justin Wong, Casey Nakamura
Portland, Oregon	Sunshine Division Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway	Jessica Kupczak, Nicole Sancilio
Roanoke, Virginia		Erin Callahan, Max Crossan
San Francisco, California	The Garden Project	Micah Baum, Kristal Castro
Shawnee, Illinois	Shawnee National Forest Almost Home +	Ashley Welch, Julia Martorell
St. Louis, Missouri	Life Bridge Partnership	Alex Navarro, Lucy Levin

Testimonials from ASB 2017 Participants

Atlanta and St. Louis are new trips this year. Be the first to write a glowing review this spring.

Antelope Island: “Jolene is an amazing community partner and she so appreciated the work that we did. BUASB is one of the only organizations that goes back to Antelope Island year after year. They look forward to us coming, and enjoy putting us to work! Antelope Island itself is beautiful, diverse and humbling. There is nothing quite like being surrounded by mountains on all sides and hearing nothing but quiet.”

Asheville: “This partner is continuously growing and being a no-kill animal shelter, it's needs constantly shift. Brother Wolf has a goal of opening a pet sanctuary that can house not only cats and dogs but also pigs and cows and an education center. As such, they need as many volunteers as possible to make that dream a reality.”

Chicago: “The Friedman Place was one of the best experiences ever. They were very welcoming and open when we arrived and really took us in as a part of their community. They had planned for us to do many things that were both fun and meaningful. They also allowed for us to have free time within the schedule so we could hang out with the residents. The staff was a joy to work with.”

Crossville: “The CTC was great. They were excited to have us and prepared us for the work that we would be doing. The wagon masters that went with us on the trails were extremely knowledgeable and fantastic mentors.”

Des Moines: “The IHYC is such an inspiring place that all young adults should go to and it gave all of us a reality check of how lucky we are as well to not be experiencing homelessness.”

Detroit: “They're a wonderful non-profit, doing meaningful work and they truly need volunteers like us. Dedicated volunteers who take initiative and are ready to work. These skills allow us to work together with these community partners to form new ideas and bring them to life.”

Greenville: “They were always prepared and had work for us to do. I loved that they were conscious of giving us the same classroom to work in everyday, so we could really build relationships with the students.”

Harpers Ferry: “These people at Harper's Ferry remind you why we go to school and that is to do what we are truly passionate about. The National Park Service truly values the work ASB puts in each year. Steve is one of the most genuine people I've had the

pleasure of meeting and his spirit is what not only united our group, but what really gave our trip meaning.”

Hobe Sound: “I feel like our community partner had us do service work that was very rewarding and effortful. We were able to see our results at the end of the day and understand how it was helping the environment. They were very warm-hearted and welcoming, teaching us about Florida's environment and wildlife and their own work.”

Horse Cave: “Horse Cave offered a big change in scenery and environment for volunteers. We did work in caves, and because most of us had no experience with caves, it was really cool to learn something new.”

Louisburg: “I loved working and helping out at the middle school. We've been going to Louisburg for so many years, and the staff and students there all love the bonds we make.”

Louisville: “Hand in Hand deeply cared about the community, and did a great job communicating what was expected of us and why our work was important. Ellen and her team were very flexible and rolled with the punches. This is only the second time they collaborated with a volunteer group in Louisville, but it seemed like they had been doing it forever. They were very gracious of the effort we put in.”

Macon: “Rebuilding Macon was so great to work with. You can tell they really care about what they're doing, and they also care about their volunteers as well. They were very appreciative that we went down, and they were so hospitable.”

Memphis: “I thought they did a really good job of giving context to some of the major issues in Memphis, and encouraged us to think critically as to why these issues exist and to look more closely at the root of the problems, as opposed to blaming or pointing fingers. They had some really amazing presentations and speakers that were engaging and thought provoking.”

Milwaukee: “They were so nice and had everything planned out for what they wanted us to do each day. We got a taste of everything and we also weren't doing the same thing everyday which meant we (or at least I) was never bored. It was awesome how we got to compare the three different centers as well.”

Montreal: “Their mission is so interesting and our help really made a difference. We helped them with English which is not their strong point. Also, the director took time to introduce us to partner associations in the building, which showed they cared about educating us and their genuine commitment to community service and hosting volunteers.”

Nashville: “United Cerebral Palsy did a wonderful job educating us about what their organization does for those with disabilities and I thoroughly enjoyed learning how to build wheelchair ramps from them. They were incredibly patient teaching us and the experience was very rewarding.”

Natchez: “Absolutely, the Natchez Children's Home did an incredible job of combining service with learning opportunities, which I believed to be incredibly valuable. And they took amazing care of us as volunteers, they were very aware of what we were giving up to be there.”

New Orleans: “Yes, they really appreciated us being there as much as we wanted to be there. This partner was so grateful and well prepared for us. They were very informative and very flexible.”

Orland: “The people are wonderful, they frame the service's impact on the community and for their organization well.”

Paris: “I would definitely recommend that ASB return to this community partner in the future. I felt that the service was incredibly meaningful as the work we did had a very big impact on the farm. A team of 9 people can accomplish so much in so little time compared to the usual help the farm gets and we were all very happy to have made a real difference.”

Philadelphia: “Having the opportunity to work directly with the people benefitting from our service was great, and I felt very welcome there. Little sisters of the poor is very hospitable, and they really care about us.”

Phoenix: “The IRC is an incredible organization that does so much good humanitarian work. Also, the organization has a massive global presence, so it's really interesting to see the perspective and work that the IRC does.”

Portland: “The service was well-organized and meaningful. Everyone at the community partner was committed to the mission and approached the relevant issues with respect and an open mind.”

Roanoke: “Very organized, meaningful work, all around great people.”

San Francisco: “The Garden Project story and mission is amazing. They are a small group, so we are really able to get to know each individual. It was awesome.”

Shawnee: “Yes, they were very friendly and very informative about Shawnee. They loved teaching us about the history of the area, and the environment as well. They did a lot of activities to facilitate group dynamics even without the prompting of our coordinators, and genuinely inspired me to reflect on my own actions.”