

Lafayette College
Alternative School Break Application 2009-2010

Name: _____ Year: _____

Campus Phone: _____ Campus Box #: _____

E-mail: _____ Age _____

Are you Van Certified? If not, how long have you had your license? _____

Have you ever been a member of an ASB team before? If so which teams?

How did you find out about Alternative School Break?

Please list activities on campus you are currently involved in:

Part I: Site Selection

Each trip and its dates are listed below. Please rank your preference of trip (1-7: 1-most preferred/ 7-least preferred) and indicate if you cannot attend a certain time period. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Caitlin Flood (floodc@lafayette.edu).

_____ January Interim: Urban Hunger: NYC

This trip will focus on hunger and homelessness in the United States. Participants will work at God's Love We Deliver preparing and delivering food for those who are too sick to shop and cook for themselves. Students will also work in different soup kitchens and homeless shelters within the five boroughs.

Estimated cost: \$285

_____ January Interim: Sustainable Living: Ecuador

This trip will deal with cultural preservation of indigenous communities of Pastaza, Ecuador through the NGO, Fundecoipa. Volunteer projects include teaching English in classrooms, conservation efforts, construction of houses and trails, etc. The aim of the project is to create community development in the indigenous communities of Pastaza based on sustainable use of the biological resources and cultural norms. PLEASE NOTE: The trip to Ecuador is set in a rural village. This trip requires that you are flexible and willing to work in a rugged environment.

Estimated Cost: \$685

_____ January Interim: Youth & Education: Dominican Republic

This trip deals with at-risk and underprivileged youth in the Dominican Republic. Students will work at an orphanage that specializes in working with college groups. Participants will take part in teaching classes, providing recreation services, and engaging children in a very hands-on, active environment.

Estimated Cost: \$860

_____ January Interim: At-Risk Youth: Chicago

This trip will deal primarily with the issue of at risk youth in major cities. The group will work with a community organization that provides after school programs, meals, and other social services to the children and families of the community.

Estimated Cost: \$480

_____ Spring Break: Civil Rights Tour

The Civil Rights and Social Justice Tour trip will focus on the impact of the Civil Rights movement. Participants will visit historic sites, museums, and archives, as well as interact with residents of the South who participated in key events, partnering with various community-based, national and other civic organizations to serve a variety of constituencies in the Memphis area. Estimated Cost: \$375

_____ Spring Break: Urban Hunger: Washington D.C.

This trip will have the opportunity to work with Center for Student Missions in addressing the issue of hunger and homelessness. Students will be challenged to learn from those they serve in homeless prayer breakfasts, children's programs, rest homes and feeding programs. Participants will help with food preparation and distribution and will visit day care centers

that provide services to low income families.

Estimated cost: \$360

Spring Break: Disaster Relief: Gulf Coast (St. Louis, Mississippi)

This trip will aid in the reconstruction of a Gulf Coast community. Students will learn about the effects of global warming on the environment and the various socio-economic issues that have been problems for the Gulf Coast region. Participants will do everything from gutting houses and cleaning up yards, to hanging sheetrock and putting on new roofs.

Estimated Cost: \$510

Part II: Questions

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. **Please limit each response to 250 words or less.**

1. Why do you want to participate and what do you hope to gain from an Alternative School Break?
2. Why did you rank your trip preferences in the order you listed above?
3. Describe a time when you had to work as part of a team. What did you contribute to the team?
4. Research shows that some of the most meaningful learning experiences happen among a diverse group of participants. How will you contribute to your team's diversity?
5. Imagine that you and your team arrive at your service site, only to find that another group of volunteers have already started on the tasks assigned for the day. You realize that only two of your teammates will be needed to finish preparing the meals for members of the community. You have two hours until lunch is scheduled to be served. What plan of action do you take to best use your time?
6. Please list any special skills you have including construction, education, presentation, languages, First Aid training, etc.

Part III: Please list one reference. Include their telephone number.

Questions Pertaining to Placement PLEASE NOTE, these have no bearing on your acceptance to ASB. They just serve as guides to the placement process.

1. What camping, training, or survival skills do you have?
2. Do you speak Spanish? If so, what is your level of proficiency? Are you comfortable acting as a translator if needed?
3. Many of ASB's partner organizations tend to be faith-based groups. How comfortable are you working with organizations that may have different beliefs or philosophies than your own?

Part IV: Please read the following descriptions concerning team roles and, after careful thought, list in order (1 being most wanted) the role you feel you best fit (NOTE: these listings are just to aid us in our decision making process. They will not necessarily affect our decision upon your application, nor are your selections the definite roles you will have on your team).

Scribe: The Scribe has the duty of maintaining an accurate and precise description of team meetings. After each meeting, s/he will be responsible for forwarding the information to all team members, ASB Advisor, and ASB President.

____ **Cultural Guru:** The Cultural Guru is responsible for selecting information and sites in the volunteer area for the team to visit while on their trip. S/he should be contributing pertinent information at team meetings regarding the site and work closely with the Educational Guru to increase the team's understanding of the trip location's culture.

____ **Educational Guru:** The Educational Guru is responsible for providing the team with information, statistics, and other facts about the issue they will be working on, such as affordable housing. In addition, the guru should also provide similar figures for the site itself (i.e. Habitat for Humanity).

____ **Service Guru:** The Service Guru is responsible for preparing service opportunities for the team prior to and after the trip. These should be related to the work being performed on the trip.

____ **Team Builder:** The Team Builder should create activities and get-togethers to create a united, friendly team. The Team Builder should work closely with the other roles in creating events of interest to the group.

____ **Reflector:** It is the job of the Reflector to create meaningful discussions and introspective thought within all team members while on the trip. The reflector should be able to utilize reflection resources, be creative, and receptive to others thoughts and reactions to the ASB experience.

____ **Team Fundraiser:** The Team Fundraiser must create unique opportunities to earn money for the team's trip. This role is vital to helping make the trip affordable for all the participants.

____ **Health Nut:** The health nut is responsible for making sure all participants sign the appropriate documents, have vaccinations, and general vitality of the team. S/he will also be responsible for the first aid kit, other health related items, and the menu on the trip.

DON'T FORGET!

Applications are due no later than 12:00pm on September 25th in Amber Zuber's mailbox (Farinon 115D).

Late applications will not be considered.

Important Information*

* Information subject to change. Participants will be notified

- If accepted, you will be notified by October 4th.
- Your first deposit of \$75 is due at noon on October 23rd
- Your 2nd deposit of \$75 is due at noon on November 30th.
- Your FINAL payment is due at noon on March 26th, 2010
- The first General Meeting will be held on Monday, October 5th at 7:00pm. Attendance is mandatory. The location will be Pardee 102B.
- PLEASE DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED DUE TO PRICES WHEN APPLYING, THERE ARE MANY FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES THOUGHOUT THE YEAR!

SCHEDULE OF GENERAL MEETINGS FOR THE FALL SEMESTER

October 5th
October 19th
November 9th
December 7th

If you are placed on an Interim Trip, there is a mandatory meeting on December 14th.