PANTHER BREAKAWAY, ALTERNATIVE BREAKS MISSION
To challenge Georgia State University students to become agents of social change in cultural and social awareness through education, strong direct service and reflection.

DESCRIPTION
Panther Breakaway, Alternative Breaks is a yearlong experience centered on community service during winter and spring breaks away from classes. Participants learn about and then work with agencies supporting a particular social issue. On location, students work for social change to improve the lives of others and explore the culture and history of the area.

The Alternative Breaks program challenges students to:

- Learn about and critically examine social issues.
- Take thoughtful, meaningful action towards the resolution of the social issues.
- Listen to and understand the community needs, recognize community strengths and work toward a reciprocality in the community relationship.
- Continue a commitment to service and social change while building new partnerships.

WHAT IS A SITE LEADER
Site leaders are responsible for the “Breakaway experience.” This includes pre and post trip activities/meetings, researching, planning and booking the service for their participants, serving as a liaison between service sites, participants, staff and the executive director. Site leaders are expected to attend ALL training sessions to help them be effective leaders throughout the year.

SITE LEADER COMMITMENT
As a site leader, you will be required to attend MANDATORY meetings listed below unless you provide documentation to Panther Breakaway’s Advisor showing you have class scheduled during that time.

- **August 26, 2016** 3 – 4 p.m.
  Civic Engagement Conference Room (Student Center West 474) [Site Leader Meet and Greet]
- **September 16, 2016** 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
  Georgia State University Indian Creek Lodge [Breakaway Site Leader Training]
- **September 30, 2016** 3 – 4 p.m.
  Civic Engagement Conference Room (Student Center West 474) [Booking Housing]
- **October 14, 2016** 3 – 4 p.m.
  Civic Engagement Conference Room (Student Center West 474) [Booking Service Sites]
- **October 28, 2016** 3 – 4 p.m.
  Civic Engagement Conference Room (Student Center West 474) [Ice Breakers & Reflection]

*In addition, you MUST complete Georgia State University’s van driver training course in order to serve as a driver for your trip. Details will be announced after selection process.*
TRIP COST
The cost per site leader is $250 for winter trips and $300 for spring trips. The trips can be paid for in full or by installments. The trip payment pays for housing, transportation, meals, fun day activities and the closing dinner. Payments can be made via check or money order made out to Panther Breakaway.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
April 29, 2016: $100 Payment Due for winter site leaders, $150 Payment Due for spring site leaders
October 28, 2016: $150 Payment Due

* Site Leaders who do not adhere to the payment schedule will be removed from their trip. Payments are nonrefundable.

ACTIVE CITIZENS SCHOLARSHIP
Please pick up an application in the Office of Civic Engagement and note that scholarships are awarded in the fall for both fall and spring trips. Please contact Jennifer Bodnar at jbodnar@gsu.edu or 404-414-1552 with any questions or concerns about the scholarship.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY
Alcohol and drug use and/or possession on any Georgia State University Panther Breakaway trip is prohibited. If you are found with any alcohol or drugs (including participants over 21), you will immediately be asked to leave the group and travel home at your own expense. Upon return to Georgia State University, students will be directed to the Dean of Students Office for further disciplinary action.

TRIP CHOICE
Please rank the top (3) social issues you are interested in with (1) being your top choice. Specify which break, winter or spring, that you would like to be a part of. If you would like to lead and/or participate in one trip each break, please rank (1) to (3) in each break.

Winter trips will take place Wednesday December 14 – Sunday December 18, 2016

_____ Hunger and Homelessness – Atlanta, GA
Students will focus on issues relating to poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness in the City of Atlanta, working with organizations such as food banks, community gardens, and homeless shelters.

_____ Race Relations – Birmingham, AL
Participants will focus on the history of race relations and civil rights and their current implications for non-profits.

_____ Immigration – Jacksonville, Florida
Participants will focus on immigration and will volunteer with organizations providing services to new immigrants.

To request disability accommodations at this event, please contact Disability Services at 404-413-1560.
Spring trips will take place Sunday March 12 – Saturday March 18, 2017

_____ Urban Education – New Orleans, LA
Participants will tutor school age children in areas that were heavily affected by Hurricane Katrina. They will also help prepare at-risk students at these schools to take their LEAP exam to move on to the next grade level.

_____ Animal Rights – Asheville, NC
Participants will work with animal shelters and farm animal rescues to learn more about abused animals, animal rehabilitation and the impact of eating meat on the environment

_____ Women’s Issues – Columbia, South Carolina
Students will focus on domestic and sexual violence and will work with organizations that provide resources and services to women who are the victims of these issues.

_____ Access to Justice in Atlanta – Atlanta, Georgia
Participants will work alongside legal aid organizations in directly serving clients through legal work.

_____ Disaster Relief – Location TBD
Students will be working on disaster relief projects in an area to be determined when the time of the trip grows closer.

Applicant Information

Name: ____________________________ Panther ID: ____________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________
Cell Phone: ___________________________________ E-mail: _______________________
Class Standing: Freshmen / Sophomore / Junior / Senior / Graduate Student
Gender: _______________________________ T-shirt Size: _______________________
Major: ________________________________ GPA: ___________________________
I would prefer to lead a: (circle one) Winter Trip Spring Trip

Have you participated in a Panther Breakaway trip before? If yes, where and when?
____________________________________________________________________________________________
Panther Breakaway
2016-2017 Site Leader Application (Domestic)

Do you have any allergies or medical limitations that may affect choice of site? If so, please list.
______________________________________________________________________________________________

How did you find out about Panther Breakaway?
______________________________________________________________________________________________

List one fun fact about yourself.
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Briefly tell us why you are interested in leading a Panther Breakaway trip.
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Initial next to each of the following statements to acknowledge your understanding and agreement:

_____ I have read through and understand all policies associated with the Panther Breakaway Program.

_____ I agree to the payment schedule.

_____ Payments made to Panther Breakaway are **NONREFUNDABLE**.

_____ Alcohol and Drug-free Policy: Please refer to this clause.

_____ Pre- and Post- Trip Meetings and Events: Please refer to this clause.

Applicant Signature: ________________________________ Date: ____________

Please direct all questions concerning Panther Breakaway, the application process and more to jbdnarl@gsu.edu. If it is urgent, please visit the Office of Civic Engagement, Suite 475 of Student Center West or call 404-413-1552.