Panther Breakaway
2015-2016 Participant Application

Participant applications are due to the Office of Civic Engagement (Student Center West 475) by October 30, 2015 at 5 p.m. Trips are open until filled but participants who submit their application by October 30 will receive priority consideration.

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 reciprocal community relationship.
- Continue a commitment to service and social change while building new partnerships.

PARTICIPANT COMMITMENT
Each trip will have mandatory pre trip meetings and events during the fall and spring semesters to orient and education the trips participants about the issues that will be encountered during the Alternative Break trip. Panther Breakaway participants have an obligation to the community they will be traveling to and must be prepared mentally, physically and emotionally. Site Leaders planning each trip will notify participants of meetings and events as well as a pre-service project to be held during the fall and spring semesters.

TRIP COST
The cost per participant is $300 for winter trips and $350 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
October 30, 2015: $150 Payment Due
November 30, 2015: $150 Payment Due for winter trips/$200 Payment Due for spring trips

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.

To request disability accommodations at this event, please contact Disability Services at 404-413-1560.
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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 participate in one trip each break, please rank (1) to (3) in each break.

Winter trips will take place Wednesday December 16 – Sunday December 20, 2015

_____ Human Trafficking – Atlanta
Participants will volunteer with various organizations focused on promoting human trafficking awareness.

_____ Childhood Obesity – Nashville, Tenn.
Participants will volunteer with various organizations focused on promoting healthy lifestyles.

_____ Animal Rights – Asheville, N.C.
Participants will work with abused animals, animal shelters and aquatic animals in recovery centers.

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

Spring trips will take place Sunday March 13 – Saturday March 19, 2015

_____ 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.

_____ Poverty and Food Insecurity – Orlando, Fla.
Students will focus on community gardens to bring food into poverty-stricken areas.

Students will focus on alternative transportation methods, farm to table initiatives, green building and organic gardening.

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Applicant Information

Name: ___________________________________________________ Panther ID: __________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________

Cell Phone: ___________________________ E-mail: ____________________________________________________

Class Standing: Freshmen / Sophomore / Junior / Senior / Graduate Student

Gender: _____________________________ T-shirt Size: _____________________________

Major: ___________________________________________________ GPA: ________________

Have you participated in a Panther Breakaway trip before? If yes, where and when?
__________________________________________________________

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 going on a Panther Breakaway trip.
__________________________________________________________

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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 pbatgus@gmail.com. If it is urgent, please visit the Office of Civic Engagement, Suite 475 of Student Center West or call 404-413-1552.