 Panther Breakaway – Alternative Breaks

2015-2016 Faculty/Staff Application

Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Priority given to those who apply before November 1, 2015

Please submit the completed application to the Office of Civic Engagement (Student Center West 475) or email the application to Jennifer Bodnar at jbodnar@gsu.edu.

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.

STAFF EXPECTATIONS

• Staff members lead by example.
• All domestic trips are within driving distance; staff are expected to share the driving responsibilities with the certified student drivers. In order to drive, you must completed Georgia State University’s van driver training course. Trips will be taking 12 passenger vans and there should be 1 staff member per vehicle.
• Other responsibilities include assisting the student site leader in any way needed to ensure that all trips are a success; this can sometimes lead to conflict management, group facilitation and education.
• All staff members should get prior approval from their supervisor before committing to attend a trip.
• Staff may be asked to assist with fiscal management of funds by accepting a cash advance and distributing these funds to Site Leaders or paying for expenditures during the trip.
• The role of the Staff Leader is as a participant so that you too can enjoy the experience of being on a trip geared towards invoking change through service.

STUDENT PARTICIPANT COMMITMENT
Each trip will meet throughout the fall and spring semesters to learn about the issues that will be encountered on the trip. Students have an obligation to the community they will be visiting to come prepared — mentally, physically and emotionally. Students will meet during fall and spring semesters for a combination of community service, fundraising, educational and social activities. All participants will also be required to attend the closing reflection session following the conclusion of Panther Breakaway. Most groups will also meet intermittently after the trip to continue service in their own communities. As a Staff Leader, you are welcome to participate in these pre and post trip activities, however it is not required.

To request disability accommodations at this event, please contact Disability Services at 404-413-1560.
BEHAVIOR POLICY

Alternative Break trip participants represent Georgia State University and are expected to uphold all parts of the GSU Code of Conduct. Participants must travel and remain with GSU students and staff. Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct will result in a sanction being filed with the Dean of Students Office.

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

STAFF COST

Serving as a staff leader for a Panther Breakaway trip is an honor of high-esteem. With that being said, all selected staff leaders will have the cost of their trip covered by the Panther Breakaway program and OCE budget.

TRIP CHOICE

Please indicate which trip(s) you would be interested in staffing.

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

_____ Human Trafficking – Atlanta (1 staff leader/2 site leaders/7 participants)
Participants will volunteer with various organizations focused on promoting human trafficking awareness.

_____ Childhood Obesity – Nashville, Tenn. (1 staff leader/2 site leaders/7 participants)
Participants will volunteer with various organizations focused on promoting healthy lifestyles.

_____ Animal Rights – Asheville, N.C. (1 staff leader/2 site leaders/7 participants)
Participants will work with abused animals, animal shelters and aquatic animals in recovery centers.

_____ Race Relations – Birmingham, Ala. (1 staff leader/2 site leaders/7 participants)
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. (2 staff leaders/2 site leaders/16 participants)
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. (1 staff leader/2 site leaders/7 participants)
Students will focus on community gardens to bring food into poverty-stricken areas.

_____ Environmental Issues – Savannah, Ga. (1 staff leader/2 site leaders/7 participants)
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: _______________________________________________________________________

Office Phone: ___________________ Cell Phone: ________________________________

E-mail: _______________________________________________________________________

Supervisor’s Name and E-mail: ________________________________________________

Department / School: _________________________________________________________

Exempt Staff Faculty (Non-exempt staff are not allowed to serve as a Staff Leaders)

Gender: ___________________________ T-shirt Size: ____________________________

Have you participated in a Panther Breakaway trip before? If yes, to what location 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?
_________________________________________________________________________________

Applicant Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________________________

Please direct all questions concerning Panther Breakaway to Jennifer Bodnar at j bodnar@gsu.edu. If it is urgent, please visit the Office of Civic Engagement, Suite 475 of Student Center West or call 404-413-1552.

*All trips are in the planning process and are subject to change. When working with non-profit agencies, we often have to be flexible with our planning.*

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