



## Florida Alternative Breaks

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### 2009-2010 Weekend Break Participant Application

**Website: <http://www.leadershipandservice.ufl.edu/studentorgs/fab/>**

#### **Vision Statement**

Florida Alternative Break's vision is to create active citizens through a year-long commitment to community service, leadership and social change.

#### **Mission Statement**

In participating in social change education and projects both locally during the year and regionally during academic breaks, students gain the opportunity to immerse themselves in a particular social issue. Through FAB's unique conditions of volunteerism and reflection, we seek to heighten social awareness, advocate for and foster life-long social action while building friendships along the way.

#### **The Role of a Participant**

**"The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become." - Charles DuBois**

Florida Alternative Breaks (FAB) offers the opportunity to do service in a city outside of the Gainesville area while learning in-depth about a particular issue and creating lasting friendships with your fellow trip members. Although participation in a FAB trip is very rewarding, it also requires commitment and dedication from those involved. Participants are required to attend regular trip meetings where they will get to know their fellow trip members, become educated about their issue, and help plan their trip. Participants will also be required to participate in one pre-trip service project where they will get a taste of what their service will be like during the break. After returning, they will also participate in one post-trip service project. Two student Site Leaders will serve as their trip's guides throughout the FAB year and lead all of these events. FAB also encourages participants to attend our socials to meet other participants and to assist with our fundraisers to help lower the costs of the trips. Participants will be matched with an issue based on their ranking of issues and their answers to the essay questions. Although we attempt to match all students with one of their top issues, this is not always possible, so please be flexible!

All participants must be a University of Florida student, staff, or faculty member. Students must have at least a 2.0 GPA and be enrolled as a full-time student for the fall semester. Grade checks are completed at the time of the application. Students who fail to maintain the minimum GPA will not be allowed to participate in FAB.

## Weekend Issue Descriptions

**\*FAB will not disclose the location of trips to participants until the first meeting. This ensures that participants choose trips based on the issue they are passionate about instead of where they are going.**

### **Children's Healthcare**

Seven percent of children in the United States have limited activity due to chronic health conditions according to the Department of Health. Children with chronic health conditions may experience limitations in some activities; frequent pain or discomfort; abnormal growth and development; and more hospitalizations, outpatient visits, and medical treatments. Numerous non-profits have collaborated with the Make a Wish Foundation to help children coping with chronic, sometimes terminal health problems. This issue focuses on education and service surrounding the healthcare world of children. Service may include volunteering with a non-profit that works with sick children, doing a variety of activities with the children and their families.

### **Environmental Preservation**

Deforestation, unclean drinking water, habitat loss and destruction, pollution, and species extinction are just a few of the environmental challenges that this planet is facing. Conservation is the "careful utilization of a natural resource to prevent depletion", and preservation is "to keep alive or in existence". Both of these actions are part of a larger movement for people to live more sustainably and less destructively in the world. Trip service *may* include environmental cleanup, species surveying, environmental education, or garden maintenance.

### **Migrant Rights**

Migrant worker is a term commonly used to describe low-paid laborers that often work in agriculture. These people frequently are not officially employed and have no visa. As such, they often are not given the basic rights they are entitled to, being forced to work extended hours with less pay. Migrant workers rarely have their voices heard from fear of losing their less than reliable job or being deported if they are an immigrant. Service for this issue may include working with an advocacy organization for migrant workers, learning about the challenges these laborers face, and assisting with the cleanup of local facility for the children of migrant workers.

### Trip Costs

The cost of trips is all-inclusive, going toward all food, transportation and housing for the week. This cost is not dependent on the issue. However, the cost of trips is still to be determined, but will fall between \$75-\$125. There is a potential for lower trip costs with successful fundraising.

This year, FAB is kicking off an ambitious fundraising initiative to lower the cost of trips for all participants. Participants are expected to participate in the letter-writing campaign, and encouraged to attend as many FAB-wide fundraisers as possible.

### Payment Information

Site Leaders and Participants will be responsible for submitting their payments by the stated deadline. A non-refundable \$100 deposit for domestic trips will be due **November 4<sup>th</sup>** to the CLS at Peabody Hall. The remaining balance is due **November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please make checks payable to the University of Florida. Failure to make payment by the stated deadline may result in dismissal from the program. If you would like to set up a payment plan, you must submit a request to FAB's Graduate Advisor,

Nikole Duvalle, nikoled@leadershipandservice.ufl.edu or 352-392-1261 ext. 229, no later than 7 days prior to the stated deadline. All requests for extensions must be submitted in writing and include your name, FAB trip, the reason(s) you believe you need an extension, and the date that you expect to be able to make your payment. There is no guarantee that your request for an extension will be granted.

No refunds will be made, except for emergency situations such as serious illness or death in the family. All requests for refunds must be submitted to and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the CLS within 48 hours of your decision to leave FAB. All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing and include your name, FAB trip, and the reason(s) you believe you need a refund. There will be no refunds for any student dismissed from the program for reasons of misconduct or for failure to comply with University of Florida and/or FAB policies, procedures, and regulations.

### **Scholarship Information**

FAB may award a limited number of partial scholarships to students who demonstrate financial need. Scholarship priorities are given to domestic trips. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please contact FAB's Treasurer, Rebeca Rodriguez-Crespo, at rrcrespo@ufl.edu or at 321-202-3976. Scholarship applications are due **October 21<sup>st</sup>**.

### **Summary of Important Dates (attendance required at all bolded events)**

- October 21: Weekend Participant Applications due by 4:00pm
- October 21: Scholarship Applications Due
- **November 3: Orientation**
- November 4: \$100 non-refundable deposit due
- November 19: Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser
- November 23: Final trip payment due
- January 15-18: Weekend Trips
- **TBA: Reorientation**

### **Essay Questions-Please limit your responses to two pages total.**

- 1) What social issues are you passionate about and how do those relate to your top three issue choices?
- 2) There are 12 participants on each FAB trip. As an individual, what would you bring to the group?

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

UF strives to provide effective, reasonable accommodations for students. Please contact Nikole Duvalle (nikoled@leadershipandservice.ufl.edu) to discuss any needed accommodations.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ UF ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Year/Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity (optional)\*: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Weekend Issues (Please rank your choices 1=highest choice 2=lowest choice)**

Children's Healthcare \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental Preservation \_\_\_\_\_ Migrant Rights \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you been on a FAB trip in the past?** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, what trip? \_\_\_\_\_

**Where did you hear about FAB?**

(Alligator, tabling, email, through a friend, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Want us to tell somebody about FAB? Put their name and email here:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My signature below authorizes an official check of my university records to ensure that I am a full-time student in good academic and disciplinary standing. It also certifies that I have read, understood, and agreed to the terms and conditions stated in the application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant's Signature)

\_\_\_\_ By checking here, I agree to allow Florida Alternative Breaks to use my FAB related pictures for professional activities unless I otherwise inform them in writing. (Pictures may be used on the internet for the FAB website)

Please turn this application in along with your answer to the essay questions to the Center for Leadership and Service, 202 Peabody Hall. Thanks for your interest! For any additional information or questions you may have, please contact the Director, Nicole Azzi, at ntazzi@ufl.edu.

\*Used for demographic purposes and will not adversely affect placement