



Civic Engagement
OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

Alternative Spring Break: Guatemala
Exploring the Stories of San Juan
Application 2017

Please read and complete this application in its entirety and return to the Center for Civic Engagement in the A_LAB no later than **Friday, November 11th at 4:00 p.m.** Essay questions should be typed on a separate sheet of paper and meet the suggested length or e-mailed to Patrick Grayshaw, (Assistant Director of Center for Civic Engagement (pgrayshaw@oglethorpe.edu)). The thoroughness and content of each application will be considered during the application process. Please direct any questions regarding the application to either LaBreshia Taylor, Alternative Break Student Coordinator (ltaylor2@oglethorpe.edu) or Patrick Grayshaw (404-504-1978 or pgrayshaw@oglethorpe.edu) before the application deadline.

Personal Information:

Full Legal Name (as stated on your passport/ID): _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ *Students must be 18 years of age by 3/4/2017 to participate.*

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Local Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Class Standing: ___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Other: _____

Status: ___ Part-Time ___ Full-Time Gender: _____

Major (and Minor, if app.): _____

Additional Questions:

How did you hear about ASB: Guatemala? Please be specific:

Dietary Preferences (please list any and **all**):

Please list any and all health conditions that may require certain accommodations on the trip.

Do you have a passport? ___ Yes ___ No

Level of Spanish: Please select the level of Spanish you believe best describes you. **All students are eligible to participate, regardless of Spanish fluency level.**

_____ No Spanish (How do you say “hello” again?)

_____ Elementary Spanish [SPN-101/ SPN-102] (I am tired. I am thirsty. Thank you! Where is the bathroom?)

_____ Intermediate Spanish [SPN 201/SPN-202] (Hello! My name is... I enjoy playing basketball and tennis in the spring.)

_____ Advanced Spanish [SPN-301/SPN-302] (The cultural stereotypes of both men and women in Hispanic Culture are...)

_____ Fluent/ Literature [SPN 490 and up] (Due to the fluctuation in the price of crude oil...)

General Trip Information:

ASB: Guatemala will be from **Friday, March 3 - Saturday, March 11, 2017**, during Oglethorpe University’s Spring Break 2017. We will leave from and return to Atlanta. Students **must** travel with the group.

Trip Cost and Payment Schedule: Total trip cost is currently priced at \$1,300.

This cost includes airfare, lodging, meals, and all supplies and tools. Students may carry spending money for souvenirs and extra snacks, and for meals on the trip there and back, which will not be covered. Students are responsible for paying for any required travel immunizations and any necessary clothing and personal items.

First Payment Due: Friday, December 9, 2016 - \$100

This non-refundable deposit will hold your spot. The deposit will be used to secure airline tickets and so we cannot return the deposits based on the company’s regulations. The remaining payment schedule will be provided upon receipt of the first payment. Payment plans are available upon request.

Alternative Spring Break Trip Description and Statement of Understanding:

ASB: Guatemala will involve certain tasks, situations, circumstances, etc. that may take you out of your comfort zone. While it is an important part of Alternative Breaks to be challenged and have the opportunity to grow, we want to ensure that each student is prepared for the experience. Please review each of the following items and then sign below to indicate that you have read them, understand them, are comfortable with them and are prepared to handle all of these components. Only sign if you are completely comfortable with and willing to comply with these items.

1. **Pre-Trip preparations:** Participants will be required to complete pre-trip orientation sessions, readings, and paperwork. Once having read pre-trip assignments, participants are required to be involved in group discussion about the themes and concepts found in these materials. These are mandatory to prepare for travelling abroad and working as a group.
2. **Service is primary:** The majority of each day in San Juan will be spent doing a variety of volunteer projects to benefit the community. Be prepared to participate in service projects of different themes and intensity.
3. **Cultural sensitivity:** The attitude you exhibit while in San Juan is absolutely critical. Remember, we are not there to provide quick service and get out- we will be aiding the community in what *they need*. This means that service objectives might not be as clear to you, and that the tools given for a job may not be what you need. You must remain open minded, understanding and, most importantly, respectful no matter the circumstance. Be ready to ask questions and learn every day.
4. **Daily Spanish classes:** Each day we will spend approximately two hours taking Spanish classes. The classes will be decided by your current level of Spanish. You will not receive academic credit for these classes, but they will boost your ability to communicate with your family and other members of the community while in Guatemala. Upon arrival in San Juan, you will take a short Spanish test that will assess your Spanish fluency level and help place you in a class based on your proficiency.
5. **Homestays:** While in San Juan, we will stay in groups of 2 with local families. The CCE staff will assign roommates based on Spanish level. We will eat daily meals with our families and spend much of our free time getting to know them. Your family will probably not speak very much English, and you will want to make every effort to patiently communicate with your family. This is an exciting part of our trip that will give us a unique opportunity to learn about Guatemalan culture and interact with and learn from the people of San Juan. You should be prepared to be flexible, patient, and courteous, as families will be going out of their way to host us for a week.
6. **Reflection:** An essential part of this trip will be group reflection. Reflection offers you, the participant, the opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences, to learn from the group, voice your opinion, and seek help for any challenges you may face on the trip. These times will be informal but a critical part of every day, and wholesome participation by each member is expected.
7. **Early mornings:** We will get an early start every day and have long days (~6:30am-10:00pm). You must be prepared to wake yourself up (with the help of roommates and host families) each day and be on time for the start of each day and throughout the trip.
8. **Physical Exertion:** Participants will be extremely active (including walking long distances and demanding physical work) in a climate they may not be accustomed to. While every effort will be made to accommodate students with physical limitations, if you are concerned about your ability to participate, please see Patrick Grayshaw before returning this application.

I have read and understand each of the above statements and I believe that I am sufficiently prepared for this Alternative Break trip. If I have questions or concerns, I will contact Patrick Grayshaw for clarification and assistance.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Essay Questions: Combined responses should be **at most** 2 pages typed and double spaced. Please number responses. Stay concise, but respond honestly and think carefully about each response before writing. Essay questions will weigh heavily in the application process.

1. Why do you want to participate in an Alternative Spring Break rather than experiencing a traditional college spring break? Why are you interested in this particular Alternative Break to San Juan, Guatemala?
 - a. Address at least what specifically attracted you about Alternative Break and ASB: Guatemala and what you hope to learn from this experience.
2. Briefly describe your community service experience. What kind of volunteer service are you most familiar with? What skills do you have that you can bring to the group and experience, and what skills will you have to enhance and improve in an unfamiliar environment and service setting?
3. Alternative Breaks extend for far longer than the time you spend on them. How would you share this experience with peers and community members upon your return to OU? What is the importance of sharing this experience?
4. Research time! In a brief paragraph, discuss one cultural tradition or social issue that you discovered while researching either San Juan specifically or Guatemala overall. This will help facilitate a starting point for our group discussions and give you a bit more insight into where we will be traveling.

Alternative Spring Break Travel Policy:

The Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) promotes an alcohol/drug-free and safety first policy during all projects and programs. This prohibits alcohol consumption or illegal or irresponsible drug use by anyone, **regardless of age**, while participating in Alternative Spring Break Guatemala, March 3-11, 2017. Participants must adhere to staff instructions throughout the trip regarding personal safety. Any participant who does not adhere to this policy will be required to leave the trip and return to their permanent residence **at their own expense**. Support of this policy by all involved is essential for a safe and socially aware break. The CCE endorses the Drug and Alcohol Policy of Oglethorpe University.

Please initial each line to indicate that you have read and fully understand these expectations:

_____ I understand and will abide by the Alcohol and Drug policy during the entire Alternative Spring Break trip.

_____ I understand that if I violate the Alcohol and Drug policy, any University policy or procedure, or staff instructions regarding safety during the trip, I will be sent home **at my own expense**.

_____ I understand that participants must not have any outstanding debts with the University.

_____ I understand that participants cannot currently be on academic probation.

_____ I understand that participants must not have any infractions with the Office of Residence Life.

_____ I understand that the Center for Civic Engagement staff will verify the above three statements with Oglethorpe University offices and that failing to meet these expectations may prevent my eligibility to participate.

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____