



Alternative Summer Break (ASB) Information Packet

&

Participant Application

Habitat for Humanity in Winston-Salem, NC

Tuesday, May 30th - Sunday, June 4th, 2023

ASB (Alternative Summer Break) is the Research Aligned Mentorship Programs dedication to engaging students in service with local, domestic, and international communities. These week-long immersive service trips partner with various community organizations to support efforts such as animal welfare, disaster relief, youth education, environmental concerns, quality affordable housing, health care, food security, and poverty alleviation.

ASB participants do not “help” or “fix problems.” Rather, instead of viewing our host site communities through a deficit framework, ASB works from an asset-based model. Our participants, referred to as “RoadRAMs”, serve alongside community members to strengthen the organization they are serving with. Our service focuses on creating justice, not doing charity. This framework allows the RoadRAMs to learn from the knowledge and experience of our host sites, while also working towards becoming active citizens who serve for the common good.

These once in a lifetime service opportunities help the RoadRAMs make tangible connections between what they have learned in the classroom and what they will encounter once they depart the college setting. The opportunity to travel while engaging in community service provides you a unique RAM Experience.

ASB CORE VALUES:

- **Applied Learning:** This out-of-class experience takes learned theories and models and puts application to real-world settings, creative projects, or independent or directed research.
- **Social Justice:** Full and equal participation for all groups in a society that is mutually shaped to meet everyone’s needs and full potential.
- **Simple Living:** Limiting our negative impact on the environment and community by keeping within limits that reflect on socio-economic conditions, while lessening our ecological carbon footprint.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Commitment to individual and programmatic efforts to build mutual respect, dignity, access, and equity among all groups of people.
- **Self-Awareness and Reflection:** Creating time and space to analyze how we impact the community, and ways in which we contribute to and can alleviate social deficits.

DIRECT SERVICE:

ASB trips engage students in “hands on” projects and activities that address unmet social needs as determined by the community. Depending on the trip’s focus, the service could reflect building or repairing a house, serving meals, working with youth, maintaining trails, creating care packages, and much more. This work may be both physically and emotionally demanding. No matter the site, your full participation will lead you to gaining new skills, building meaningful relationships, and working towards a more socially just world.

REFLECTION and EDUCATION:

It is understood that service is just one component of social justice and active citizenship. It is the combination of direct service, social issue education, and daily reflection during the trip that will result in the most successful and transformative “Alternative Spring Break”. Before, during, and after each day and the overall trip, group leaders will facilitate discussions, reflections, and team builders to encourage a deeper understanding of service and community.

FULL ENGAGEMENT:

The RoadRAMs are expected to be fully engaged, body and mind, during the entirety of the trip. One of the most important aspects of full engagement is our commitment to a Drug and Alcohol Free experience. Alternative Spring Break is just what the name implies, it is an alternative to the traditional college break. On said breaks, we will be representing both Farmingdale State College and the RAM Program. Therefore we will follow the Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Policy found on the [FSC Webpage](#). If a RoadRAM is found to be using, possessing, manufacturing, or distributing drugs or alcohol, they will be required to return home at their own expense. Participants in violation will not be permitted to participate in ASB for at least one academic year.

*Depending on the trip selected for that year.

TRANSPORTATION:

Transportation to and from the destination, as well as from the worksites will be arranged. All domestic trips are traveled by van/car. RoadRAM members are urged to save space by bringing only one small-medium duffel bag.

HOUSING:

Housing is included in trip costs. However, in the spirit of Simple Living, groups do not stay in hotels, but rather we will partner with churches, colleges, hostels, and community centers. Air mattresses or barrack-style bunk beds are common. RoadRAMs are asked to bring extra bedding, towels, and toiletries.

MEALS:

Included in trip costs are three meals a day and snacks. RoadRAMs will plan, prepare, and eat meals together as a team. In an effort to adhere to our Simple Living and sustainability values, we budget \$7 per person, per day for meals. Lunch will be prepared each morning and brought to the worksite for the day. Students are asked to bring additional spending money if they wish to do additional eating.

Required Pre-Trip Meetings

Once you have been selected to join our trip, you will be contacted about Pre-Trip Meetings. These three meetings are an essential and required part of the ASB trip and being a RoadRAM. Here, you will get to know your fellow RoadRAMs, receive important details about your trip, and learn about your host site organization, host site community, and the issues related to your trip.

Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3
Tuesday, April 18th, 2023	Thursday, May 4th, 2023	Monday, May 22nd
TBA	TBA	RAM Office
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	10:00 am – 1:00 pm

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE

Dates:	Tuesday, May 30 – Sunday, June 4th, 2023	
Work Days:	Wednesday- Saturday	
Location:	Winston-Salem, NC	
Cost:	Habitat Materials:	\$50
	Housing Fee:	\$20
	Transportation:	\$50
	Meals:	\$50
	Total:	\$170
Description:	RoadRAMs will partner with Habitat for Humanity as we aid in building a home for a family in need. This one week experience is designed for all majors and those with no construction experience! All are welcomed! If you are looking for a fun way to gain leadership experience, meet other RAM students, boost your resume, and make a difference, this trip is for you!	

Cost, Payments, & FUNDRAISING!

The cost of the trip above includes housing, meals, and transportation. Payments can be made in cash or check to “The Research Aligned Mentorship Program at Farmingdale State College”. These payments should be dropped off to a RAM Staff member only. Be sure to obtain a receipt. This assures the safe acceptance of your payment.

Upon our first meeting, a nonrefundable \$50 deposit is due. This \$50 deposit will be applied to your total cost remaining. The hope is for this program to be completely funded by fundraising and scholarship efforts!

Final payment, if needed, will be due by the last scheduled meeting prior to our trip.

During our three mandatory meetings we will discuss payment and fundraising opportunities.

References:

Community Services (2018). *Oswego State University of New York*.

Kretzmann, J. & McKnight, J. (1996). *Assets-Based Community Development*.
National Civic Review. Vol. 85, Issue 4

State University of New York (2018). *Applied Learning at SUNY*.

Volunteer Center (2018). *University of Southern California*.

ASB Participant Application
Summer 2023

Applications are due Sunday, March 26th , 2023

Personal Information

Full Name: _____ **RAM ID#:** _____

Last

First

Permanent Address: _____

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number: _____ **Farmingdale Email:** _____

Graduation Year: _____ **Major:** _____

DOB: ____/____/____

T-Shirt Size: ____S ____M ____L ____XL ____XXL

MM DD YY

Gender: ____Male Identifying ____ Female Identifying ____Non-Binary ____

Prefer Not To Answer ____

How did you hear about ASB:

Student Involvement

Have you attended a prior ASB Trip (Year and Location):

—

Organization/ Club(s) involved with:

—

Additional skills, experience, knowledge that relates to Alternative Spring Break:

—

Short Answers

Take your time answering each of the following questions. There are limited spots on this trip, therefore, well-written and thought out responses are a significant part of the selection process.

1. Which of the ASB Core Values or Trip Elements (listed in the info packet) do you most relate to and why?
2. What do you hope to learn, accomplish, and/or gain from this experience?
3. ASB puts great emphasis on community, cooperation, and reflection during our trips. Explain a time when you had to work in a group and faced obstacles. What role did you play in overcoming those obstacles so you could continue to work as a team?
4. ASB often takes participants out of their comfort zone, requiring a certain amount of flexibility and open-mindedness. What is an example of a time when you were

open-minded and flexible? How will you prepare for and cope with any challenges faced during this experience?

Trip Agreements

Please review the following statements. Sign and date to indicate your agreement to adhere to each of the statements.

- I will respect all members on the trip and everyone I meet at the site. _____

- I will be an active participant in all aspects of the trip including:
 - Providing service at volunteer site
 - Preparing meals
 - Making decisions as a group
 - Cleaning the space we will be staying in
 - Reflection and discussion sessions
 - Team builders_____

- I will not consume drugs or alcohol while participating in the Alternative Spring Break Trip. If I violate this agreement, I will be sent home from the trip at my own cost and my participation in future ASB trips will be temporarily or indefinitely suspended.

- I will attend all pre-trip group meetings. _____

- I will pay the required participant fee by the due date(s). _____

- I understand that participant fees for this program are nonrefundable. If I withdraw from this trip for any reason, I am aware that I will not be refunded any money I have contributed. If no replacement can be found

I, _____, understand that by signing this agreement I agree to abide
(print full name) by all the statements above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ / _____ / _____