



Spring Break: Serving 6 Communities Across the Nation

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During this year's Spring Break, 82 members of the IUPUI community decided to abandon the traditional concept of a college Spring Break and, instead, opted for a more meaningful experience—Alternative Spring Break. Each year, IUPUI organizes several Alternative Break trips across the nation to destinations such as Staten Island, NY, Selma, AL, and Mission, SD. Find out more about the Alternative Break movement at IUPUI and how you can get involved!

Alternative Break trips provide an opportunity for participants to travel to another part of the country and experience a social issue in a different light than they have ever experienced it before. Through education, direct service and reflection, participants are able to truly immerse themselves in a social issue—ranging from Native American issues to HIV/AIDS—and learn how to truly make change within it. While they experience and learn about the social issue in the context of another part of the country, participants are pushed to think of ways that they can better the social issue within our own Indianapolis community.



Alternative Breaks are mutually beneficial for the community and for the participants that are on the trips. Katy Kaesebier, a graduate student and trip advisor on the trip to Selma, Alabama, said, "Serving in a city that still has a high level of racism gave me an understanding around the issue of civil rights while allowing me to understand the current state of it. More than that, it has allowed me to have a better understanding of how diversity and racial issues affect me both personally and professionally."

We are always looking for participants and advisors for trips that are taken in the fall, spring, and (starting in 2012) summer. Email ocs@iupui.edu if you would like to receive information regarding upcoming Alternative Break Trips. Alternative Breaks are an amazing experience, however, you do not have to travel across the country to learn about and get involved in social issues. Visit the Office of Community Service in Campus Center 370 or at www.csl.iupui.edu/ocs for ways to get involved in our own community.