

Alternative College of Charleston Break

Party later, save the world now!

Spring 2009
Participant
Application

Spring 2009 Alternative Break Trips

Children and Education- Treasure Beach, Jamaica

VIJON (Volunteer In Jamaica Opportunity Network) is a great opportunity for volunteers to immerse themselves in Jamaican culture, by having the opportunity to experience the daily lifestyles of Jamaican citizens in the Treasure Beach area. As volunteers, we will assist primary school teachers in the area by providing tutoring services, assistance in the classroom, and helping to repair the infrastructure of the local schools. Many of the schools in the area are under funded and do not have the necessities such as supplies, books, and play equipment that most primary schools have. There will also be plenty of downtime built in to enjoy one on one interaction with local students and citizens as well as experience all that Jamaica has to offer.

Agro-ecological Issues- San Isidro, Costa Rica

Are you an advocate for the environment? If so, come join us at La Gran Vista Agro-ecological Farm in Costa Rica, where there are abundant opportunities for those of us with a green thumb to have a positive impact. This volunteer-run farm focuses on providing other local farmers with 'environmentally sustainable agricultural methods' by focusing on organic farming, soil regeneration and conservation, natural herbicides and pesticides, and enhancement of the natural environment. But remember to take a nice, long look around you when the day's hard work is complete to enjoy the natural beauty surrounding you, such as El Valle de General and Mount Chirripo. The ability to speak Spanish is a plus!

Animal Rescue/Rehabilitation- Peten, Guatemala

The ARCAS wildlife rehabilitation center in Peten, Guatemala gives volunteers the opportunity to help rescue and rehabilitate wildlife who have been victims of habitat loss, unsustainable hunting and capture for the illegal pet trade. Volunteers will have the opportunity to work with beautiful, tropical animals, such as scarlet macaws, mealy parrots, kinkajous, spider and howler monkeys, peccaries, coatimundis, margays and jaguars, all while surrounded by the beautiful Mayan ruins of Tikal. Most animals received at the Center are very young and require immediate and constant care: chicks must be fed by hand; monkeys must be cuddled; and injured animals receive medical treatment at the quarantine clinic. There will also be a canopy tour and other activities providing the chance to explore all the beauty Guatemala has to offer! For more information, visit: <http://www.arcasguatemala.com/en/volpeten.htm>

Habitat for Humanity- Jacksonville, Florida

Bothered by the idea that one third of the households in the United States have housing problems including a high-cost burden, overcrowding, poor quality shelter and homelessness? Join together with 16 other College of Charleston students this spring break to work with Habitat for Humanity to fight this housing crisis. Together we will work to provide decent housing at an affordable price for families in the southeastern U.S. If you don't mind getting dirty, want to meet some new people, and enjoy having a good time then this is the trip for you. No previous experience with construction is required, but enthusiasm is essential!

Rural Healthcare and Social Injustice- Kentucky/ Virginia

This trip is a domestic exploration with national and international implications in regards to free health care and environmental/social justice with a slight detour for hiking and camping. We are headed for Wise, Virginia or Hazard, Kentucky to volunteer alongside medical practitioners and actively observe what it takes to found and operate a non-profit free medical clinic in rural America. In conjunction with Remote Area Medical and Appalachian Regional Healthcare, we will experience the personal and environmental costs of "Big-Coal" and Nuclear power on community health in some of the most beautiful, yet some of the most forgotten about communities in America. Most importantly, we will have the pleasure of seeing what people are doing in response to this travesty and what we can do about it in our everyday lives. Neither direct medical experience nor deep pockets are necessary for participation on this trip but flexibility, passion, creativity, and a love for the outdoors will be essential. If you have any interest in "Doctors Without Borders" or "Greenpeace International" this trip is the perfect fit!

Calendar of Important Dates

Sun November 16th	All Participants Meeting
Sun December 7th	All Participants Meeting
Sun January 25th	All Participants Meeting
Sun February 1st	Super Bowl Sunday: No Meeting
Sun February 8th	All Participants Meeting
Sun February 15th	All Participants Meeting
Sun February 22nd	All Participants Meeting
Tues February 24th	Safe Spring Break Send Off
Sat February 28th	Spring Break Starts!!!!!!