GSU’s Community Service and Civic Engagement Center partnered with Community Collaborations International to host this year’s Alternative Spring Break in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**About Community Collaborations International**

Community Collaborations International coordinates Alternative Spring Break (ASB) programs in various cities across the United States as well as internationally. Community Collaborations International deploys volunteers where they are needed most and gets the most value out of each volunteer hour through effective management and comprehensive logistical support. They coordinate everything from meals and local transportation to service projects and housing making the ASB program extremely cost effective. Community Collaborations International partners with the Boys & Girls Clubs, and other local nonprofits to provide meaningful and impactful service projects for volunteers and the community alike.

**About the Programs:** Community Collaborations International has been a lead organization supporting the expansion and implementation of Alternative Break Programs throughout the United States. Community Collaborations International is a project of the Hub for Direct Community Action, a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor organization. Community Collaborations International coordinates programs impacting: disaster relief, hunger, homelessness, childhood education, environmental restoration, animal welfare, public health, special needs populations and Immigration.

**About the Puerto Rico ASB Project:** Community Collaborations International projects in Puerto Rico address issues such as underserved youth, education, hunger, homelessness, and the environment to meet the needs of the community.
Fees

Cost includes the following:
$550 Program fee for Community Collaborations International
$450 Round trip air fare estimate (price is subject to change depending on when ticket is purchased)

The $550 Program fee covers
- 3 Meals per day
- Housing
- Local transportation to and from service sites
- Local transportation to and from airport during arrival & departure
- Project supplies
- Team building & reflection activities
- An excursion to a nearby attraction

NOTE: Each participant is responsible for their own travel to the departure airport in Chicago.

A $100 deposit will be required to apply to the ASB program. This deposit will have to be paid with your application submission.

There is an Alternative Spring Break Grant available for up to $400 in assistance towards paying the amount due. More information will be provided to those individual accepted via email. Fundraising activities will also take place in assistance to you for paying the cost. As a team we will work together to make sure all who are accepted into the program will be able to participate.

*The $100 deposit goes towards the $550 program fee total. Students not selected will receive a refund via their student account.
ASB Process and Important Information

Application Deadline

December 1, 2015

Applications are due no later than Monday, December 1 by 5:00 pm. Applications turned in after this time and date will not be accepted. SPACE IS LIMITED. Priority is granted to students with volunteer hours recorded in the Office of Civic Engagement and Community Service.

Notification of Acceptance

You will be notified via student email if you have been selected to participate in the ASB program. If you are accepted into the program you will have to attend mandatory team building workshops. Tentative dates for the workshops are February 10, February 24, and March 10, 2016. More information will be provided via email about the workshops.

If you have any questions please contact the Civic Engagement and Community Service Center call (708) 235-7454 or email: civicengagement@govst.edu
Make sure you check the email you provided on your application daily.

Applicant Information

Full Name: ___________________________________ Major: ________________________________

Phone Number: ______________________________ Email: _________________________________

Year: ______________________________________ GSU ID: _______________________________

DOB: ___________________ T-Shirt Size: __________

Have you been on an alternative break trip in the past?   Yes____   No____

If so, which trip(s)? _____________________________________________________________

How did you hear about Governors State University Alternative Spring Break?

______________________________________________

Essay Questions (Please limit responses to 1-page. Responses must be typed.)

1) Why do you want to attend Governors State Alternative Spring Break and what skills do you hope to gain through this experience?

2) Give a brief overview of all the community service projects you have done in the last year. Please explain why these projects make you a viable, exceptional candidate for Alternative Spring Break 2016.

All students attending ASB 2016 must have a recommendation on file with your application. The attached recommendation form must be completely by a faculty/staff member at Governors State University.

My signature below authorizes an official check of my university records to ensure that I am a student in good academic and disciplinary standing. It also certifies that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms and conditions stated in the application and will complete all aspects of this application as stated above.

______________________________________________ Date

Print Name

Signature
RECOMMENDATION FORM

To the Student: You may waive the right of access to this recommendation letter, in which case the letter will be considered confidential and not be available to you. If you wish to waive your right of access to this letter, please do so by signing your name on the line below the following statement.

I, the undersigned, hereby waive all rights or privileges to inspect or challenge the content and comments appearing in this recommendation letter. I agree that observations made in this letter should be confidential between the writer and the Alternative Spring Break 2016 Selection Committee.

________________________________________
Student’s Signature

To the Recommender: _________________________________________
(name of student) has applied to be part of the GSU Alternative Spring Break team. ASBers will focus on environmental and human service initiatives to provide the basic building blocks for a good life. Volunteer opportunities will provide a holistic experience of community impact in Puerto Rico, by exploring the relationship between issues, and will include opportunities such as tutoring students, environmental clean-up and educational projects.

1. How long have you known the student and in what capacity?

2. Based on the description of Alternative Spring Break, do you think this student is a viable candidate? Why or why not?
3. Comment on the student’s ability to work in groups.

4. As a potential team member, this student is (circle one):
   Exceptional   Outstanding   Good   Average   Below Average

5. Additional Comments:

Recommender’s Name: (please print) ________________________________
Title: ________________________________
Department: ________________________________
Extension: ______________

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________

PLEASE RETURN THE RECOMMENDATION FORM TO THE OFFICE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER LOCATED AT A-2130

You may also return the form via email to civicengagement@govst.edu

For more information contact Ricca Louissaint at (708) 235-7454
# Record of Community Service/Volunteerism

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<th># Hrs. Volunteering</th>
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