

Student Activities Office Alternate Spring Break Program

Thank you for your interest in Student Activities Alternative Spring Break Program. Trips take place during Spring break which this year is March 20-27, 2011. This year there are three different trip options. You may select one, two or all three trips to be considered for. If you are not selected for one trip you may still be considered for another one. This trip is not solely a service trip but an immersion experience. You will be exposed to real life conditions of people who live in the different communities and their life realities. All trips may have some component of physical activity such as cleaning, painting, etc. There is no cost for those selected, however all participants are expected to fundraise a set amount that will go towards projects on the trip. There will be opportunities for group fundraising. All participants will be expected to present to the NEIU community on their experiences.

Trip Options

Texas/Mexico Border

The group will travel to the El Paso, Texas border. There is space for eleven students. Each participant will be expected to fundraise \$200 for the projects at the border. All transportation is provided once we arrive in Texas. All meals and lodging are also provided. Group will stay at the Women's Intercultural Center with exception of two nights when students stay with local host families. Some topics that will be covered are immigration, border control, the global market, sweat shops, and the relationship between Mexico and the United States. For more information you can check out the website (BAE link) www.womensinterculturalcenter.org

Chicago local trip South Shore Community

The group will travel to the South Shore community of Chicago, located around 80th and Chappell Ave. There is space for ten students. Each participant will be expected to fundraise \$100 for projects in local schools and community centers. Group will drive to location and participants are expected to help prepare meals and will be staying at a local church. Group will work with local Chicago Public Schools and some topics that will be covered are gang violence, homelessness, mental health issues, and lack of school funding.

Oklahoma – Cherokee Nation

This year a new trip has been added. Group will travel to Tahlequah, OK and will focus on learning about the issues facing members of the indigenous peoples of the Cherokee Nation. Group will stay in dormitory style housing and will be expected to prepare own meals. We will work closely with Northeastern State University's Center for Tribal Studies. Each participant will be expected to raise \$200 towards projects. Some topics covered will be background and history of Cherokee Nation, poverty, mental health issues and policies affecting a sovereign nation.

Quick Facts to Know:

- ✓ Students will be provided with meals, housing, and transportation during trip
- ✓ No alcohol or drugs will be permitted.
- ✓ Students will be expected to fully participate in all activities. There may be some light physical work. You will also be asked to reflect on each day’s activities, keep a journal and share personal experiences.
- ✓ Students should be prepared for the elements of area.
- ✓ The groups will leave Sunday, March 21st and will return to on Friday, March 26th unless other wise notified.
- ✓ Group will be required to plan a service project based on the trip to be done once return to NEIU.
- ✓ Students will be required to participate in a presentation to share their experiences and what they learned. Date will be determined by interview day.

Requirements:

- ✓ Have a minimum 2.00/4.00 GPA
- ✓ Be an enrolled NEIU student
- ✓ Attend all the pre-trip orientation sessions
- ✓ Participate in the mandatory fundraiser
- ✓ Plan and participate in service project
- ✓ Plan and participate in presentation to NEIU community

Application Procedures:

- **Submit Complete Application Packet by September 30th**
- **Drop off all paperwork to SU 206 or email to v-rodriquez9@neiu.edu**
- **Group interviews will be scheduled week of October 4th-14th**
- **Selections will be announced by Oct 15th – Texas Oct 22 – OK Oct 29- Chicago**
- **Once admitted, sign all travel paperwork**
- **Once admitted, attend pre-trip orientation sessions dates to be announced by interview.**
- **Fundraise set amount for projects**

Application

You may retype this on a separate page

Name:

Primary Email:

Address:

Phone:

Major:

Minor:

Year: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Grad Student

Trip interested ___ Texas border ___ Oklahoma ___ South Shore Chicago
(mark all that you want to be considered for)

What do you hope to gain from this trip? (1 page limit)

How do you deal with people whom are different from you?

How do you think your life experiences can be a benefit to this trip? (limit 1 page)