

Spring Program Info Session

Native American Cultural Preservation

to Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Alternative Break

Student Program Director- Lydia Nyarko



Info Session Outline






Community Outreach

Miguel Colon: Director of Community outreach

Carl Soares: Coordinator of Alternative Breaks- carl.soares@uconn.edu



Community Outreach (CO)

Mission: To enrich learning at the University of Connecticut through preparing students to be active global citizens by engaging them in service activities that enhance the quality of life for both others and themselves.



Programs


Alternative Breaks
Educational Events and
Trainings
Jumpstart AmeriCorps
One-Time Orjects and
Initiatives
Philanthropy
Semester-Long Serivice

Alternative Breaks: are service-learning experiences supporting alongside the community to seek a more equitable and inclusive society. Alternative Breaks trips are also designed to heighten participants' awareness of critical social issues, enhance their individual growth, and prepare them for lifelong social action. Each weekend or week-long trip integrates service, reflection and education and focuses on a social justice topic such as racial justice, environment justice, healthcare, etc.




9 Components of Alternative Breaks

 Direct engagement

 **Full Immersion**
“Alternative breaks provide participants with an opportunity to live simply in line with the community”


 Identity-Consciousness and Equity

 **Orientation**

- **Pre-program Meetings!**
- **Learn useful skills and background for intended projects**

 **Education**
“Effective education provides a framework of intersecting perspectives developed to help participants understand the root causes and effects of social issues”

 Training

 **Reflection**
“Anytime participants engage in community work, experience - synthesizing service, education, and community immersion components. Time is set aside for this to take place individually and as a group and should occur both organically and throughout”. -Break Away

 Reorientation



About the Program

Native American Cultural Preservation

Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma

LOGISTICS

Goals: Students will have the opportunity to learn about cultural preservation and engage in activities to support the community.

Engage in meaningful interactions, they will gain insights into the profound significance of cultural heritage, awareness and sensitivity.

Utilize their skillset to continue as advocates for local tribes and contribute to creating a more inclusive and respectful society

Dates: Sunday March 16th- Saturday 22nd ,2025

Cost: \$320* (Storrs)

Upon acceptance, participants will receive information on how to apply for financial assistance.

*Regional campus students have slightly different cost- email carl.soares@uconn.edu

Pre-program meeting; we will have 6 pre-program meeting before departure

Our Community Partner: Cherokee Nation

Location: we will be staying in Tahoequah at the Cherokee Nation Center

Typical; size of program: 12 participants, 1 Student Program Director, 1 Learning partner



Sample Schedule

What our typical day of service will look like





SAMPLE SCHEDULE



Sunday (travel day)

CO shuttle to Bradley- 5am

Drive from Airport to housing site

Cooking dinner- 5:00pm

Reflection + free time - 7:00pm

Monday (service learning begins)

Wake up + breakfast- 7:00 am

Drive to service - 8:30 am

Lunch break - 12:00 pm

Afternoon service - 1:00 pm

Return for dinner prep (as a group)- 4:30pm

Reflection time- 7:30 pm

Free time - 9:00 pm

Sleep - 10:00 pm





Before you apply

Information to know before you submit an application



Are there any prerequisites for applying?

There is no prerequisite of earlier public service involvement, all enrolled UConn students may apply. Students may not participate if they are not an enrolled student at the time of the alternative break.

Can I apply to more than one alt break? Do I have to fill out a separate application for each alternative break?

Yes, Please mark down all alt breaks that you'd be interested in on the application.

Do I have to be Native American or have roots in Native American Culture to apply?

No, you do not have to identify as Native American to apply for this program. We are looking for students who demonstrate passion for social justice issues and cultural sensitivity.

What are we looking for in applicants?

We are seeking dedicated students who have genuine interest in community building, culture, service and social justice

What is the mode of transportation?

We will be flying to Tulsa and renting 2 vans to drive.

What does participant cost cover?

Transportation, housing and food is included in participant cost. It does not include personal expenses.

Where would we stay and sleep?

Housing will be provided by the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah. Participants usually sleep on the floor with sleeping bags during on alternative break



■ Application & Contact
information



For accomodations contact carl.soares@uconn.edu

uconn.co.oklahoma@gmail.com

