



COSTA RICA ALTERNATIVE BREAK

THEME: RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Winter Program Info Session

Student Program Director: Julia

This alternative break has been running for **12 years**

We thank USG for the funding support to make this alternative break possible and make the cost to participants more affordable for Storrs Undergraduate students.

The Program Coordinator is working to develop partnerships with regional campuses to offset cost for regional campus students.

What is CO? Alternative Breaks?

“ Community Outreach’s mission is 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.”


CO
(Community
Outreach)

Alternative Breaks are service-learning experiences supporting alongside the community. Alternative Breaks are designed to heighten participants' awareness of social issues, enhance their individual growth, and prepare them for lifelong community collaborators. Alternative Breaks provides students the opportunities to meet new people, learn new things, and live simply in community off-campus.


Alternative Breaks

Important People

Learning Partner: UCONN Staff member who is there as a support for the SPD. They don't lead the break, but rather serve as a resource and provide risk management support and oversee the financial aspects (plus they're a *real* adult)



Community Partner: Someone from the community who guides our project. Our Community Partner is Reto Juvenil and the Project Director is Fabio. He has worked with us for many years now!



Carl: Staff Program Coordinator. You'll be getting some important program emails from him.

Introduction to Ethical Service Abroad



**Work in line with
the community**



**Three components
of quality service**



Ethical Storytelling

Logistics

Dates: January 9th to January 16th

- Depart JFK early on the 9th. Participants will move into their dorms on the 8th to move in and will meet in person the night before. We will take a private shuttle to JFK.
- Arrive back in JFK late on the 16th and will be back on campus early hours of the morning. Participants can stay in their dorms straight into the spring semester.

Anticipated Cost: \$760

Location: We will fly directly to Liberia, then take a shuttle bus to Los Jazmines.

Sample Day Schedule

7am: wake up

Get ready for the day/breakfast

First project shift (smaller groups)

Lunch break

Second project shift (smaller groups)

4pm: kids come to play

Dinner

Reflection

Free time

10pm: lights out

Service

Examples of service activities include:

- Painting the school mural
- Construction
- English lessons

Other activities:

- Cooking lessons
- Games with local kids
- Hikes

Important Applicant Expectations to Know

- Safety is so important! We will be staying at a school that is enclosed by a tall locked fence. Participants won't be allowed to leave the housing space unless under the guidance of the SPD, LP and the CP.
- The sleeping arrangements will sleeping on the floor in mosquito nets.
- While the school has wifi, UCONN only has access certain wifi access. To ensure a stable connection at all times for emergencies, only leadership will have access. Participants will have the opportunity to call home during free-time though.

Important Applicant Expectations to Know

- Participants are expected to engage with and attend 6 pre-program meetings. These meetings will have info about safety, preparing for service, practicing cultural humility, building relationships, etc. If you miss a meeting, you are expected to make it up.
- This project involves physical labor for about 6 hours a day outside in the Costa Rican sun. You'll have breaks and whatnot but it is something to prepare for.
- The school will be providing us with food and it is cooked by a community member who is trained in US food standards. Meals consist of mainly rice and beans with regional produce. (no meat)

Next Steps...

Visit the UCONN CO website

Follow the CO Instagram (uconnoutreach)

Reach out with any
questions: _uconn.co.costarica@gmail.com

Apply!