

UConn Community Outreach

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS PUERTO RICO



COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

What is Community Outreach?

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

Programs:

Alternative Breaks

One-Time Projects and Initiatives

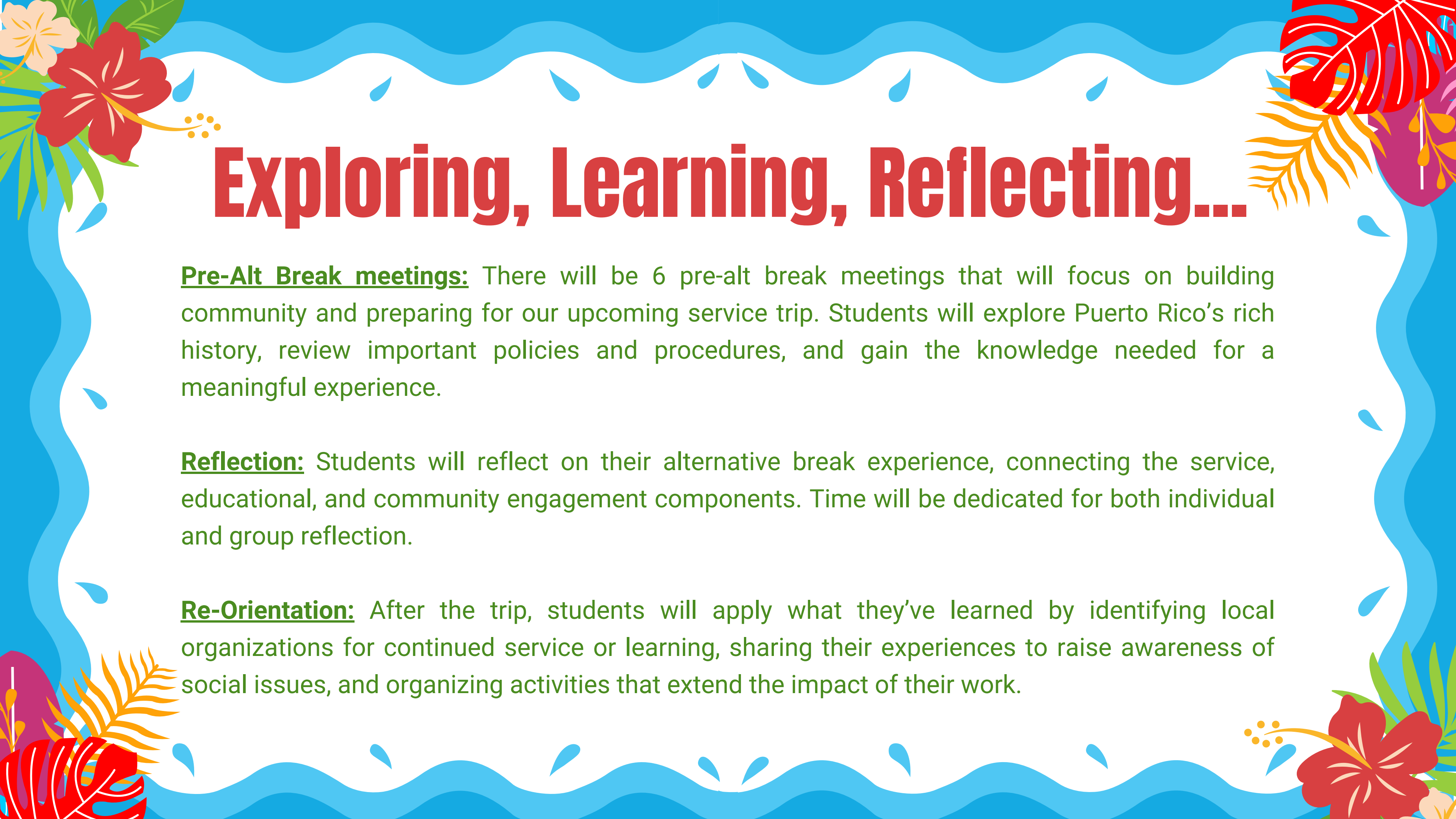
Semester-Long Service Programs



What Is an Alternative Break?



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



Exploring, Learning, Reflecting...

Pre-Alt Break meetings: There will be 6 pre-alt break meetings that will focus on building community and preparing for our upcoming service trip. Students will explore Puerto Rico's rich history, review important policies and procedures, and gain the knowledge needed for a meaningful experience.

Reflection: Students will reflect on their alternative break experience, connecting the service, educational, and community engagement components. Time will be dedicated for both individual and group reflection.

Re-Orientation: After the trip, students will apply what they've learned by identifying local organizations for continued service or learning, sharing their experiences to raise awareness of social issues, and organizing activities that extend the impact of their work.

Alternative Break Puerto Rico



- An Immersive hands-on service trip dedicated to community sustainability. Our program will focus on topics: Housing Security, Sustainability and Community, through the week of January 8th-15th during winter break.
- During this trip, we will actively work to reduce waste and protect Puerto Rico's natural habitats and ecosystems by taking part in local clean-ups and supporting community-driven initiatives.
- Develop meaningful relationships and engage in immersion and education-based topics.



Things To Know Before Applying

In preparation of the Alt. Break there will be 6 weekly meetings that will prepare you with information necessary to embrace the culture!

We will be working directly with community members and organizations!

Bring a growth mindset—be open to new experiences, embrace challenges, and welcome different perspectives as opportunities to learn and grow!

Example Schedule

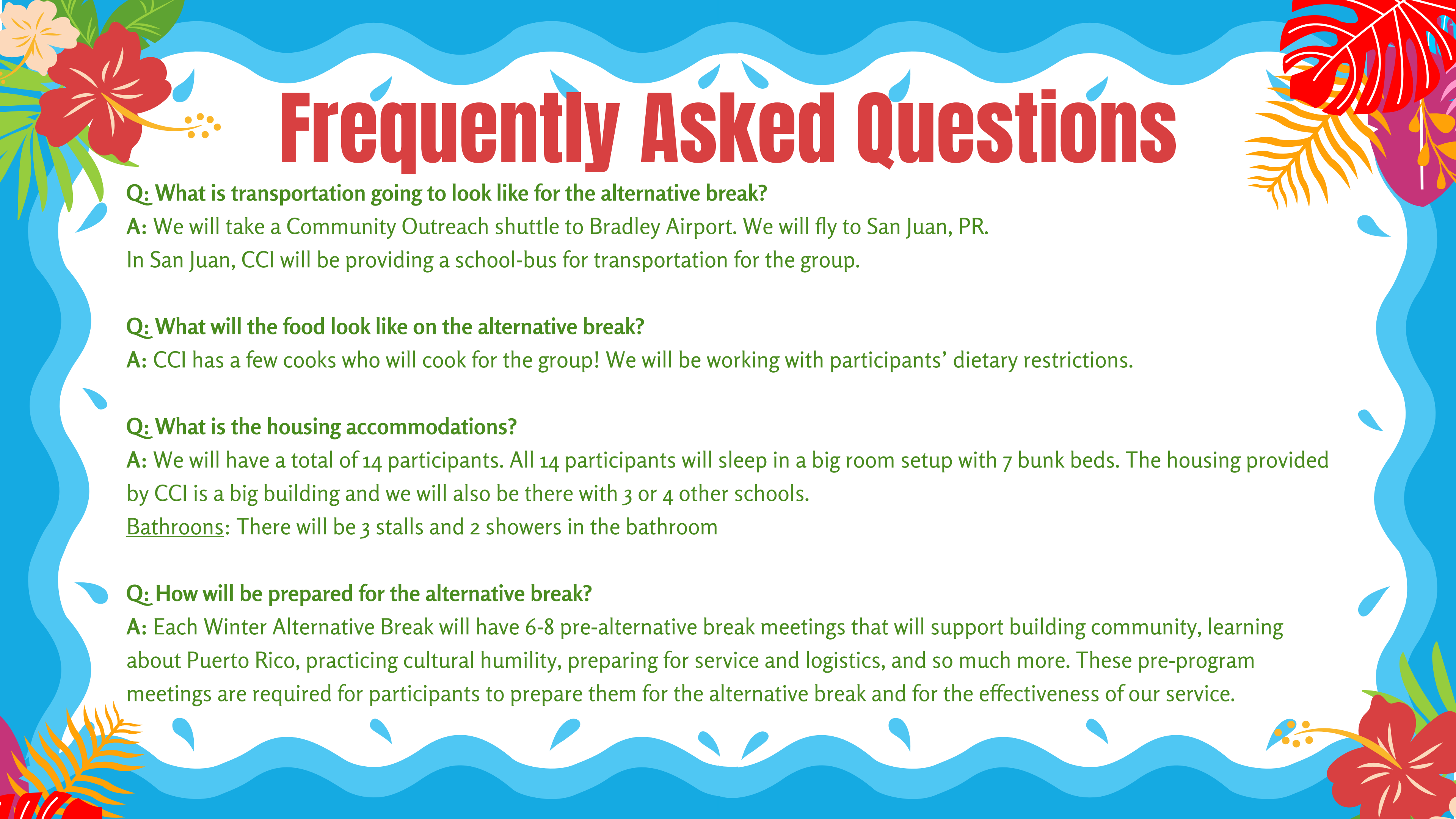
Here's what our average days could end up looking like, however these are example days and subject to change depending on the day.

Travel Day

7:00am: Participants arrive at the Atrium
8:15am: Load CO Van & Depart from UConn
9:05am: Arrive at BDL → Check Bags → TSA
10:00am: Arrive at Gate → Food Purchases
10:45am: Board Flight
11:15am: Flight Departs BDL
4:00pm: Flight Arrives at SJU → Collect Bags
4:30pm: Connect w/ CCI & Depart for Housing
5:30 pm: Arrive at Housing, Unload Bags
6:00 pm: CCI Orientation & Dinner
7:30 pm: Evening Activities

Service Day

7:00am: Breakfast
8:00am: Leave for Service
8:30-12:00: Service
12:00pm: Lunch at Service Site
12:30-3:30: Service
3:30pm: Depart for CCI Housing Site
4:00pm: *Free Time at Housing Site*
6:00pm: Dinner
6:45pm Free Time at Housing Site
8:00pm: Reflection
9:30pm Free Time
10:00pm: Lights Out



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is transportation going to look like for the alternative break?

A: We will take a Community Outreach shuttle to Bradley Airport. We will fly to San Juan, PR. In San Juan, CCI will be providing a school-bus for transportation for the group.

Q: What will the food look like on the alternative break?

A: CCI has a few cooks who will cook for the group! We will be working with participants' dietary restrictions.

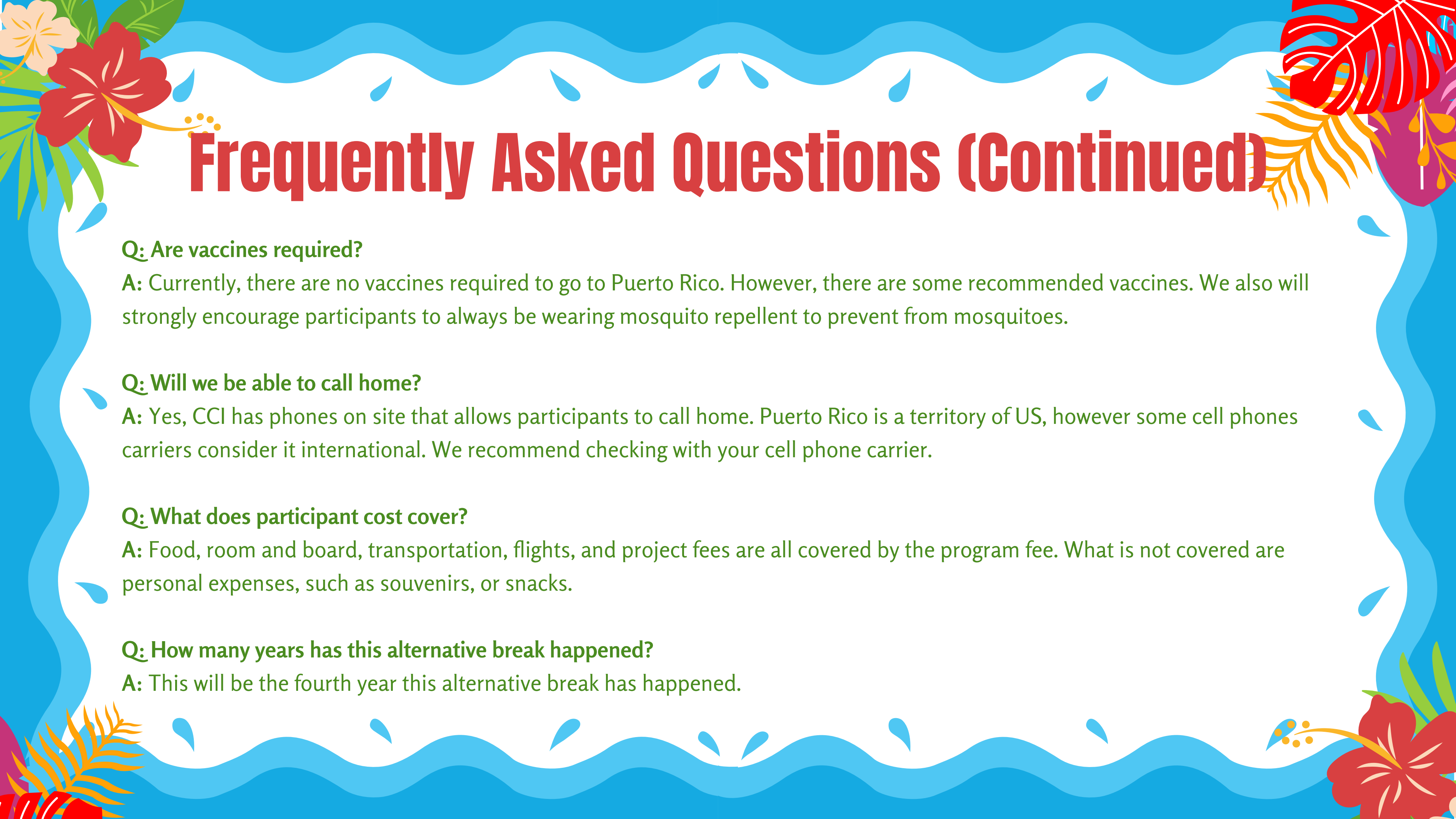
Q: What is the housing accommodations?

A: We will have a total of 14 participants. All 14 participants will sleep in a big room setup with 7 bunk beds. The housing provided by CCI is a big building and we will also be there with 3 or 4 other schools.

Bathrooms: There will be 3 stalls and 2 showers in the bathroom

Q: How will be prepared for the alternative break?

A: Each Winter Alternative Break will have 6-8 pre-alternative break meetings that will support building community, learning about Puerto Rico, practicing cultural humility, preparing for service and logistics, and so much more. These pre-program meetings are required for participants to prepare them for the alternative break and for the effectiveness of our service.



Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

Q: Are vaccines required?

A: Currently, there are no vaccines required to go to Puerto Rico. However, there are some recommended vaccines. We also will strongly encourage participants to always be wearing mosquito repellent to prevent from mosquitoes.

Q: Will we be able to call home?

A: Yes, CCI has phones on site that allows participants to call home. Puerto Rico is a territory of US, however some cell phones carriers consider it international. We recommend checking with your cell phone carrier.

Q: What does participant cost cover?

A: Food, room and board, transportation, flights, and project fees are all covered by the program fee. What is not covered are personal expenses, such as souvenirs, or snacks.

Q: How many years has this alternative break happened?

A: This will be the fourth year this alternative break has happened.

Interested? Apply Here!



USG Funding
Supports Alt Breaks

Application deadline
Thursday Sept 17