



Dear site leader applicant,

We are excited about your interest in becoming a UNLV Alternative Breaks Site Leader/Program Assistant! UNLV Alt Breaks site leaders are peer leaders/facilitators of week-long service and social justice trips. Typically, the trips take place during select weekends, spring break, and after finals in May.

Benefits of joining the Alt Breaks Team

- Enhance and/or gain transferable skills such as event planning, facilitation, & leadership
- Build collaborative relationships and communication skills with on and off campus partners
- Enhance and/or gain dialogue and conflict resolution skills
- Work with a diverse, active cross-section of the UNLV community
- Build self-confidence and self-awareness through trainings, trips, and more
- Apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations through performing hard and soft skills
- Explore and understand social justice topics through multiple perspectives
- Engage in a one-of-a-kind collegiate experience
- Have your trip cost expenses covered
- Earn an hourly wage for your time spent working in the Service Learning & Leadership office

This packet contains important information about Alt Breaks, including the Alternative Break Trip experience, position description, and important dates and deadlines.

As a first time Site Leader there are **no prerequisites!** Our site leaders range in major, age, background and experience. Our goal is to prepare a variety of students through fall and spring training sessions. We prepare you to **lead** trips, **build** reflection plans, and **facilitate** discussions. Training and retreats provide you with the necessary tools for being an effective site leader. We will ask a lot of you, but you'll be supported along the way during this rewarding experience.

If you have questions, please consult this info packet first, but reach out to us at altbreaks@unlv.edu if you have not found the information you need.

Sincerely,

The UNLV Alternative Breaks Team

The Alt Break Experience

Alt Breaks are a great opportunity to experience a different community and explore social justice issues through service alongside communities. While you travel, your group will do service, learn, live simply, and get to know your fellow travelers and host community. Our trips are crafted to be accessible and built on our core values. Site Leaders are expected to be familiar with these 5 program values:

Simplicity - Our trips are crafted to be affordable and different from the everyday. This means everything from sleeping in shared spaces, cooking shared meals, sharing chores and turning your cell phone off.

Solidarity - We strive to work alongside communities, finding nonprofit partners that are deeply connected with the community and working in partnership for social change.

Justice - It is important that we do service, but also learn about issues on a deeper level to understand why structural inequity exists and how we can work for social change. This process is often slow and challenging; we try to find hope along the way.

Community - Our teams should get to know each other, as well as the local community hosting us. Our staff finds non-profit partners that are deeply connected with the local people they serve and collaborate with for social change.

Continuation - After our trips return, we take time to share our experiences with others, continue service and issue education, and plan steps we can take to advocate for social change. After our trips return, we take time to share our experiences with others at our *reunion event*. At this fun program, breakers continue topic education to advocate for social change.

Important Notes:

- To create a safe, effective learning and service experience, participants must commit to a drug- and alcohol-free experience.
- We include limited recreation time as a group to experience the local destination, but that looks very different for every trip. Our primary focus is creating service and social justice trips-- with some fun local recreation experiences as a bonus!

Position Description

- Attend all Site Leader retreats and training (see date list below)
- Attend weekly 1:1 meetings (1-hour) with program staff
- Spend approx. 10 hours weekly in the SLL office
- Build detailed, accurate trip documents according to program timelines
- Create inclusive environments for participants throughout the experience
- Co-lead (2-3) pre-trip meetings for participants (see date list below) and an intentional, safe, impactful service and social justice trip for a cohort of peers
- Maintain good standing with the university and at least a 2.5 GPA
- Uphold the 5 Alternative Break program values
- Participate in our post-trip reunion event

Important Dates and Deadlines 2023-2024

All of the dates below are mandatory, unless they are labeled as optional. If you are unable to attend any of the mandatory days, you will no longer be eligible to participate in the program as a site leader. Depending on placement, you must attend all pre-trip meetings, trip dates, and reunion events for your trip.

Fall Semester 2023

- Monday, August 14 - First week of work in the SLL office
- August 21 to September 6 - Various events including tabling, hosting, etc.
- Friday to Saturday, September 8 to 10 - SLL Council Retreat
- Friday, September 15 from 9 am to 12 pm - Site Leader Training
- Friday, September 22 from 9 am to 12 pm - Site Leader Training
- Friday, September 29 from approximately 7 am to 2 pm - Lead service projects through UNLV Service Day
- Friday, October 6 from 9 am to 6 pm - Leadership Catalyst Workshop (Optional)
- Friday, October 13 from 9 am to 12 pm - Site Leader Training
- Friday, October 20 from 9 am to 12 pm - Site Leader Training

Spring Semester 2024

- January 7 to 13 - Site Leader Retreat
- Friday, February 2 - Alternative Breaks Workshop Day
- Friday, February 9 - Alternative Breaks Workshop Day
- Friday, February 16 - Alternative Breaks Workshop Day
- Friday, February 23 - Alternative Breaks Workshop Day

*Dates not outlined above include info sessions, marketing and tabling events, and pre-trip meetings to be set as a team while balancing student schedules.

Trip Dates

Site Leaders will be expected to help organize and run one to two trips during the academic year; which trips and during which times will be determined in conversation with the Program Coordinator. The below dates represent the current dates held for trips during the 2023-24 academic year:

- Saturday, October 21, 2023 (AB Lite)
- Saturday, November 4 (AB Lite)
- Friday to Sunday, November 10 to 12, 2023 (Veterans' Day Weekend)
- Saturday, February 3, 2023 (AB Lite)
- Sunday to Saturday, February 16 to 19, 2024 (Presidents' Day Weekend)
- Sunday to Saturday, March 10 to 16, 2024 (Spring Break)
- Sunday to Saturday, May 12 to 18, 2024 (Post-Finals)