MARCH 3-11, 2017
ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Memphis in March!
In March 2017, Student Activities and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion are partnering with Serve 901, a non-profit organization in Memphis, Tennessee, to aid in urban farming, help with neighborhood cleanup, mentor and encourage disadvantaged youth, and help build a better community.

Applications Due
November 30

Decisions Made
December 2

Full Payment Due
January 31

18 Students,
2 Advisors,
1 Awesome Adventure

Link to App:
https://goo.gl/forms/30MzhRQR4j7wiDRJ3
What is Alternative Spring Break?

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) exists to promote service learning, social justice, and community building to Michigan Tech students through participation in experiential learning opportunities via an alternative break. Through Alternative Spring Breaks, students have the opportunity to develop into lifelong active citizens in local, national and global communities through diverse, direct-experience dedicated to social justice.

What Is My Role in an ASB?

For participation in an ASB to be rewarding, it requires commitment and dedication. Participants will attend two trip meetings where they will get to know their fellow trip members, learn more about the Memphis, and become educated about the social issue addressed by their service. After returning from spring break, students will participate in post-trip reflection.

March 2017 Trip and Focus

- Memphis, Tennessee
  - Partnering with Serve 901 and working with various organizations in the downtown Memphis area. Some examples of service projects include:
    - Volunteer with Food Bank
    - Neighborhood Cleanup
    - School Based Projects
    - Urban Farming

What’s the Social Justice aspect?

This alternative spring break will focus on developing our understanding of social justice in the Memphis area. Every evening after service projects the students will debrief with their 2 staff coordinators about the project for the day. After a debrief, Zack Rubinstein, Center for Diversity and Inclusion staff member will facilitate a dialogue on a critical social justice topic related to the service project they would have been working on earlier that day. Topics will include:

- Anti-bullying Legislation
- Community Building
- Gentrification
- Urban Segregation
- Urban Food Deserts
- Connections to the Upper Peninsula

Trip Details

We will be traveling by van to Memphis making a stop halfway and staying overnight. Everyone will need to bring their own bedding (twin sheets or sleeping bag and pillow) for the trip.

Our goal is to arrive in Memphis on Saturday, March 4 in the evening. We will spend a full week at Serve 901’s headquarters in midtown. A snapshot of our itinerary while in Memphis is on the next page.

We will depart Memphis on Friday, March 10 in the morning and travel to St. Louis, Missouri where we will stay overnight and visit the St. Louis arch.

I anticipate arriving back to Tech’s campus late in the evening on Saturday, March 11.
Sample Spring Break Week

SATURDAY

Most likely, you're a days drive away from Memphis. We want you to arrive around dinner time so your group has the chance to settle in and grocery shop for the week. Maybe you buy a frozen pizza or dine at a local joint.

SUNDAY

We'll gather for lunch and orientation together early afternoon. The orientation will give you some background to the city of Memphis and your week with Serve901. We send you off to visit the National Civil Rights Museum and stroll around downtown Memphis.

MONDAY

You'll begin working with one of our partners bright and early. You may serve at a local homeless shelter as men and women come to shower and get a fresh set of clothes. You may mulch a school garden. We'll likely work you hard Monday. Of course, our desire is that you take time to evaluate your context. Learn the story of the organization you're partnering with as well as the leaders who lead the project.

TUESDAY

We may move you to a local school on Tuesday. Our organization champions teachers and the urban education movement. We want to rally alongside educators. You may be asked to paint. You may be asked to read with students. You may be asked to organize a library. Realize that no task is too small. Too many stories are involved to take any task for granted. Students who aren't reading on grade level by third grade are more likely to end up in prison. This is a very damning stat for urban areas. Knowledge is power. We'll try to make this a lighter day, because we'll have a pow-wow this night. We'll have some good Memphis BBQ and hear from Memphis leaders about how they are addressing current issues and injustices in our city.

WEDNESDAY

We bring everybody together - that means such and such college ministry from the south with such and such student group from a Big Ten school - for Roundtable Breakfast. We realize that Memphis issues may not be Wisconsin issues or Boston issues. We have you share with students from other parts of the country about what you've learned so far. How could you enact change or address injustices in the communities that you know? You might spend this afternoon with a community development organization to clean blighted neighborhood properties. There are many "CDC's" in Memphis working to improve the quality of life on a neighborhood level. They do this through affordable housing, job training programs, and asset mapping.

THURSDAY

You may spend the morning working on developing some available acreage with a local after school program and the afternoon with the students they serve. You're going to eat out and enjoy the town on Thursday night!

FRIDAY

Safe travels as you head out (head out=Bunkhouse is squeaky clean!). At this point in the relationship, you're fans of us, we're fans of you.
Application, Decision, and Payment Process

Applications are accessible at this link (https://goo.gl/forms/30MzhRQR4j7wiDRJ3). They are due on Wednesday, November 30. The applications will be reviewed by CDI and Student Activities and 18 students will be selected by December 2 and a waitlist formed.

Those selected will need to provide full payment of the trip by January 31, 2017. Participants will be responsible for submitting their payments by the stated deadlines. Payment plans are possible and can be discussed the trip coordinators (jrdavey@mtu.edu OR zlrubins@mtu.edu). Checks should be made out to Student Activities with Alternative Spring Break written in the memo line. Those paying in cash can stop by MUB 112 and provide payment to Karma Kilpela between 8am-5pm Monday through Friday.

If full payment isn’t provided, we will choose the next person from the waitlist and that individual would need to provide full payment upon being selected.

Cost

The current total cost for the trip is $500. This covers all accommodations, program fees, educational and cultural community engagement activities, transportation to and from Memphis and service site locations, tickets to the St. Louis arch, snacks, and most meals. Additional costs may include food purchased on your own or possible excursions you choose to participate in.

Do not let the cost detract you from considering this opportunity. We can assist students lower their cost by helping coordinate fundraisers. We also encourage you to ask for assistance from family members or friends through a GoFundMe account.

We are in the process of reaching out to outside sponsors for additional funding so the final cost may be lower than quoted above.

Special Requests for Students

We strive to provide effective, reasonable accommodations for students. Please contact Jonathan Davey (jrdavey@mtu.edu) or Zachary Rubinstein (zlrubins@mtu.edu) to discuss any needed accommodations.

Questions

Send any questions to Jonathan Davey (jrdavey@mtu.edu) or Zachary Rubinstein (zlrubins@mtu.edu).