

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) 2013

Brief description of program:

The mission of Alternative Breaks Program is to engage the University of Utah community in service and experiential learning while promoting holistic wellness and lifelong service by dispatching teams of college students to distant communities over school breaks. This travel service programs allows students to grapple with complex social issues, and further integrate into campus life and engagement.

Who was asked to complete survey:

All students who participated in an ASB 2013 trip, and staff partners who participated in an ASB trip.

Response Rates:

Pre: 97.2% (105 of 108)

Post: 90.7% (98 of 108)

Reflection: 44.4% (48 of 108)

Administration Type: These surveys were administered in several ways, including Campus Labs iPod touch app, link to post, paper with data entry into Campus Labs, and Campus Labs mass e-mail

Summary of Key Findings:

Overall the alternative break program proved to have a successful year with positive evaluations on the site leader and staff partner's ability to include and plan a volunteer trip out of state, their ability to facilitate conversations and agency experiences while on the trip, and further students continue (as historically found in post-trip surveys) to be more likely to engage in volunteer/community service upon return home. Additional questions added this year include trip price and scholarship assistance questions – further assisting program administration in preparation for the 2013-2014 alternative breaks year.

Actions Taken:

We will be working to increase scholarship funding as the majority of recipients felt that scholarship funds significantly affected their ability to participate in ASB. We will also be using agency assessments to determine future trip itineraries and partners as some agencies provided less meaningful experiences than others.

Which Student Affairs goals does this program align with?

1. Develop students as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the body, mind and spirit
3. Promote diversity on campus
5. Partner with faculty, staff, and external constituencies to foster student development and enhance the greater community
6. Utilize a coordinated assessment, evaluation, and research approach to promote data driven decision-making