

2017 Alternative Break Citizenship schools (ABCs) | June 18 – 23, 2017
Reframing Disability: Communities of Independence and Self-Determination
Staff Track | June 21 – 23

The Staff Track portion of the ABCs includes:

- *Five workshops* facilitated by Break Away staff
- Opportunity for **engagement in strategic planning**, as we look toward the 2017-2018 alternative break season
- **Networking and coalition building** with other alternative break professionals
- Space to **share best practices** among campus programs represented
- Participation in ABCs evening activities (Wednesday and Thursday) and opportunities to **engage with student leaders**
 - Includes: Diversity and Social Justice workshop; Community Reception; Speaker Panel on the topic of *Reframing Disability: Communities of Independence and Self-Determination*
- Two nights of housing; five meals; on-site transportation (as needed); transportation to Greenville-Spartanburg International airport upon conclusion of the Staff Track (as needed); conference materials – including a copy of the book, *Working Side By Side*



Building Accessible Programs

- Alternative break programs strive to meet diverse needs by offering the most inclusive programming on campus. Many programs, however, fall short on implementing preemptive policies and practices to involve participants or leaders with disabilities, and often fall to reactionary practices only when necessary. Drawing on the issue education and framework at this ABCs, we'll challenge institutions to apply lessons learned and ultimately, shift existing program structures to ensure students' full participation and inclusion.

Organizational Stability and Growth: Planning for Program Development

- Similar to a small nonprofit, alternative break programs are comprised of a number of moving parts. Whether you work in an established program that has existed for decades, or are brand new to alternative breaks, there are undoubtedly many ways to further develop your program - both strategically and organizationally. In this session, we'll establish connections with peer institutions, discuss how to evaluate your programming, and brainstorm ways to build your program to its fullest potential.

Pedagogical Frameworks for Social Justice within Alternative Breaks

- Following our Wednesday evening Diversity & Social Justice training, we'll use this time to peel back the curtain and candidly discuss our own approach to developing justice-based curriculum. Drawing on best practices from the field of social justice education, we'll cover theoretical and conceptual foundations, types and roles of identity development, facilitation skills, and curriculum design. While a background in experienced social justice education is not required, participants can anticipate a pre-survey to best determine entry points for this session.

Establishing Strong Community Partnerships Abroad

- In the last few years, we've seen a Movement-wide shift in our commitment to avoiding unintended harm and striving toward positive community impact. Centering community needs within alternative breaks, however, remains a challenge for many experienced programs. Join us as we consider how to establish robust relationships with community partner organizations. During this session, we'll also place a specific emphasis on international work that is reciprocal and mutual, while still supporting positive and safe student experiences.

Creating a Student Leadership Culture of Investment, Retention, and Ownership

- Committed to investment in a student-led model, alternative break programs should strive to recruit, develop, and retain leaders who are accountable and capable of contributing to broad program needs and strengths - while *also* working to involve students who would benefit from our investment in them. We'll consider how to build a culture of ownership and innovation that will not only retain students as leaders, but will help them flourish and succeed in their positions and leave a legacy within the program.

Options for Participation and Associated Costs

Staff participants are welcome to attend in one of three ways:

- **The full ABCs**
 - Advantage (\$586); Associate (\$659); Non-Member (\$732) – *on/before April 14* (early bird)
 - Advantage (\$646); Associate (\$727); Non-Member (\$807) – *after April 14*
- **The full ABCs and the Staff Track**
 - Advantage (\$586); Associate (\$659); Non-Member (\$732) – *on/before April 14* (early bird)
 - Advantage (\$646); Associate (\$727); Non-Member (\$807) – *after April 14*
- **The Staff Track (only)**
 - Advantage (\$254); Associate (\$286); Non-Member (\$317)

Staff Track vs. Full ABCs

For new staff members who aren't familiar with alternative breaks, or are new to their position, we would suggest attending the full ABCs. The ABCs is geared, particularly, to building and improving a strong alternative break program and is heavily student-focused, whereas the Staff Track was created for those interested in innovating within an already strong and sophisticated program and only open to professional staff, faculty, or graduate assistants. ***There is also the option to transition from the ABCs into the Staff Track for the final three days of the ABCs.***

Deadline

The last day to register for the ABCs is May 12, 2017 – however, it is likely that some of the ABCs will become full prior to the last day of registration.

Registration

Registration forms are available [here](#) and payment will be accepted by check or [online](#). Once you've completed the registration process, you'll receive a confirmation email with more detailed conference information.

Questions? Contact us at 404.919.7482 or [breakaway \[at\] alternativebreaks \[dot\] org](mailto:breakaway@alternativebreaks.org).