

2019 Alternative Break Citizenship schools (ABCs) | June 23 - 28, 2019
Collaborative Approaches to Greening a Growing City | Grand Rapids, MI
Staff Track | June 26 - 28

The Staff Track portion of the ABCs includes:

- **Five workshops** facilitated by Break Away staff and outside practitioners. Possible topics include:
 - *Using Design Thinking to Improve Programmatic Outcomes*
 - *Increasing Support, Participation, + Funding through Powerful Messaging*
 - *Applying Ethical Storytelling to Alternative Breaks*
 - *Implementing Justice-based Selections Processes*
 - *Utilizing Research + Assessment Tools for Program Improvement*
 - *Considering Trends in Alternative Break Participation*
- Opportunity for **engagement in strategic planning**, as we look toward the 2019 - 2020 alternative break season
- **Networking and coalition-building** with other alternative break professionals
- Space to **share best practices** with other institutions
- Participation in ABCs evening activities (Wednesday and Thursday) and opportunities to **engage with student leaders**
 - *Includes: Diversity and Social Justice workshop + Community Reception; Two nights of housing; five meals; on-site transportation (as needed); and conference materials – including a copy of the book, Working Side By Side*

options for participation and associated costs

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

- **The full ABCs**
 - *Advantage (\$644); Associate (\$725); Non-Member (\$805) – on/before April 12 (early bird)*
 - *Advantage (\$704); Associate (\$792); Non-Member (\$880) – after April 12*
- **The full ABCs and the Staff Track**
 - *Advantage (\$644); Associate (\$725); Non-Member (\$805) – on/before April 12 (early bird)*
 - *Advantage (\$704); Associate (\$792); Non-Member (\$880) – after April 12*
- **The Staff Track (only)**
 - *Advantage (\$324); Associate (\$365); Non-Member (\$405)*

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 is 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 is May 10, 2019 – however, it is likely that some ABCs will fill prior to the last day of registration.

registration

Registration forms will be available on our website and payment will be accepted online and by check. Once you've completed the registration process, you'll receive a confirmation email. More detailed information will be available closer to the start of the conference.

Questions? Contact us at 404.919.7482 or breakaway@alternativebreaks.org.



staff track sessions from 2018

An Evolving Approach to Social Justice Education

As social justice education continues to gain prominence within community engagement programs, alternative breaks have worked to remain at the vanguard. From our first attempts at training on systems of privilege and oppression to a move into the theory of critical allyship, we're left wondering if our efforts are really shifting the needle. In this session we'll unpack Break Away's approaches to curriculum development and facilitation, and where we've landed after 15 years of trying.

Developing Quality Partnerships in a Growing Volunteer Industry

Shifting our approach from centering volunteers to centering community is foundational to ethical engagement. In this session, we'll consider these principles as we discuss how we're promoting our trips; communicating with and about the communities we're in; approaching photography and social media usage; and positioning ourselves to return home and tell holistic stories of the places we've been. From initial planning to wrapping up the full experience, we'll consider how we can push ourselves to more closely align our approaches with our values.

Navigating Ethical Volunteer Engagement

As alternative break programs have grown, so too has the entire volunteerism industry. In a crowded field of potential partners, how do you determine the best fit for your program? With options ranging from grassroots community groups to local neighborhood associations to large organizations with multiple sites, it's often difficult to balance the trip's logistical, service, and educational needs while finding partnerships that are philosophically aligned. We'll consider how to best work with organizations who have various capacity levels for volunteer engagement.

Supporting a Culture of Reorientation

On the national level, we've refined our language around reorientation, adopting an approach that emphasizes (re)organizing. As our foundation of "now what" has shifted, we've challenged students to move beyond individual behavior changes to pursue opportunities for campus and community organizing. While we've made strides in how we're talking about reorientation, we still struggle with how we're doing it. In this session, we'll share models that have informed our curriculum and examples of how we're seeing this in practice.

Approaching Development within the Landscape of Higher Ed

Securing funding remains a persistent issue for programs across the Movement - we're continuously looking for the next great fundraiser or the grant that will secure the program's future. We'd be lying if we said we have all the answers to your program's financial security, but we will use this session to consider practical approaches for your campus. We'll work to create a development plan appropriate for your program and create space to discuss the individual successes and challenges experienced in this work.