

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

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Alternative Breaks Experience Leader Position Description

AB Experience Leaders (ELs) are the chief coordinators for the Alternative Spring Break experiences. They plan and oversee experience logistics, facilitate peer learning around social justice issues, develop educational and orientation curriculum for participants, lead team activities and reflections, and serve as the main contact for their individual AB experience. All Experience Leaders commit to and serve in this role for the summer and two semesters (from May 2024 until April 2025).

The AB Experience Leader role is a valuable and unique leadership, personal, civic, and professional development experience for undergraduate students. Experience Leaders will develop valuable transferable skills and learning benefiting them in academic, curricular and future career roles. This role is a structured experience guided by on-going mentorship, training, and feedback focused on EL and participant learning through knowledge acquisition and experience.



"Becoming an EL is one of the best decisions I have made. I wanted to step into this role to continue deepening my understanding of social justice issues and of the meaning of service learning after participating in my first AB experience. As an EL, I have grown so much as an individual, as a leader, and as a citizen of society. In addition to having the incredible opportunity to craft a meaningful experience, I learned how to lead through thought-provoking reflections, analyze root causes, and build community. Without my AB family, my college experience would not be as enriching as it has been." -- Richa Behr '20

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Important Dates & Requirements

- Availability over the Winter Term for communication, experience planning, and asynchronous work with AB staff and co-leader.
- **Important Dates:**
 - **LCSL Student Leader Retreat:** Friday, August 23rd, 2024
 - **Experience Leader Trainings:** Every Friday from 4:00 - 6:00pm - start date TBD
 - **Participant Kickoff Event:** October or November 2024
 - **Reunion:** April 2025
- Leadership over entire length of an AB Experience(s): **Dec. 2024 Graduating seniors may not lead Spring Experiences, only Winter Break Experience*
 - **Winter Break Experiences:** Wednesday, January 8th - Saturday, January 18th, 2025
 - **Spring Break Experiences:** Saturday, March 15th- Saturday, March 22nd, 2025

Application Process

- Review the Experience Leader Position Description for information about specific responsibilities and requirements.
- Complete the [online application](#) by **Thursday, April 11th 2024 (at 11:59pm)**
- After review of your application, you will receive an email either inviting you to a conversation with a member of the Alternative Breaks Team - either the Coordinator, Graduate Assistant, or one of the AB Interns, or advising you to be a participant for another experience prior to becoming an EL. If you receive an invite to a conversation, this will be about 20-30 minutes of individual questions to get to know you. Conversations will take place starting **Monday, April 15th, 2024 - Friday, April 19th, 2024.**
- All applicants will be notified by the end of April.

Responsibilities

Planning Expectations

- **Experience Planning**
 - Research, initiate and serve as main contact for partnerships with community and service agencies
 - Complete Experience Leader assignments according to due dates set by AB staff
 - Asking questions about any aspect of the planning rather than making assumptions
 - Staying positive about the process, AB Program, and experience.
 - Representing UMD, LCSL, and AB in a mature, responsible and positive way at all times.
- **Participant/Team Relations**
 - Recruit and support program marketing efforts
 - Lead reflection and manage team building, group dynamics, and problem solving for your team before, during, and after the experience
 - Ensure that university and program policies are upheld at all times before, during, and after the experience
 - Organize and participate in an Activation April post-break service activity with your teams.
 - Maintain regular and organized communication with participants providing updates, experience information, education resources, meeting/activity dates, and ensuring adequate preparation for their AB experience

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

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- **Issue Education**

- Educate self about social issue, its root causes, and its relation to community you are serving
- Develop and distribute issue education curriculum for AB participants leading to a greater understanding of social issue, root causes, and individual role within the issue (including articles, books, videos, discussions, presentations, mini-projects, blog prompts, advocacy and continued service opportunities)

Experience Preparation

- **Experience Planning**

- Plan day-to-day itinerary for experience, including service, educational and reflection activities, food, and transportation

- **Participant/Team Relations**

- Plan and facilitate at least four team meetings before the experience focused on orientation, education and training, one pre-experience activity focused on team building, and two post-experience team activities focused on activation
- Plan, coordinate, and report fundraising efforts
- Coordinate at least one pre and post experience service activities connecting your team to local organizations/resources surrounding a specific social issue

- **Staff Advisor Relations**

- Meet with Staff Advisor in person at least twice a month; conduct check-ins (over email, Google Hangout, phone) at least weekly
- Establish and maintain a strong working relationship with SA including regular/open communication and updates

- **Issue Education**

- Plan and facilitate 4 deliberative and reflective dialogues addressing global social issues, student participants will exchange and evaluate different ideas and approaches that challenge specific social, political and economic structures of our global community.

Qualifications

- Previous participation in an AB experience or other significant service/leadership experience
- Demonstrated commitment to the vision, mission and values of the Alternative Breaks program
- Willingness to learn and contribute to the learning of peers
- Ability to work well with a team and as a co-leader
- Ability to commit significant and consistent effort and time throughout the Spring semester. *Average weekly commitment is about 6 hours*

Benefits

- Gain transferrable skills and experience applicable to future personal, professional, and civic endeavors
 - Serve as a valuable voice for student involvement and will have an opportunity to help guide the direction of the AB Experience
 - High level of responsibility and unique leadership experience leading peers through experiential education program
 - Organizational experience through experience-planning and coordination
 - Building close relationships within a community of diverse peers, staff and faculty
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ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

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- Deeper understanding of social issues, root causes, service-learning, social change and social justice concepts
 - AB Experience Leaders will receive a scholarship covering half or the full cost of their AB experience (transportation, food, lodging) as a result of completing all leader requirements, depending on funding for the year.
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