2019 SPRING VOLBREAKS TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

Environmental Sustainability
Trip Leaders: Alex Allen (aallen59@vols.utk.edu) and Jake Tidwell (jtidwe14@vols.utk.edu)
This trip will be focused on how students can make an impact on their environment through the lens of national park restoration. The National Park system includes 418 areas, covering more than 85 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These areas include national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. With the University of Tennessee being located so close to the most-visited national park in the United States, it is critical that students understand the best ways to preserve and protect these areas that are so important to our nation.

Food Injustice
Trip Leaders: Emily Joyner (ejoyner1@vols.utk.edu) and Megan Mills (megdmill@vols.utk.edu)
Roughly 40 million people in the United States are classified as food insecure according to the United States Department of Agriculture. This trip will travel to one of the most food insecure cities in the nation where food insecurity affects a wide range of individuals. Participants on this trip will be focusing on sustainable community projects centered around helping those who may not know where their next meal will come from. We will be analyzing the factors that cause food insecurity and how agriculture and community organizations can help eliminate those problems. A VOLbreaks trip is the ultimate way to enhance your Volunteer experience and serve the greater community, and we know our trip would provide that unforgettable experience for you!

LGBTQ+ Advocacy
Trip Leaders: Liv Bell (obell1@vols.utk.edu) and Noé Monárrez (imonarre@vols.utk.edu)
Emphasizing the significance of every individual’s civil and human rights, this trip aims to raise awareness for the various issues faced by LGBTQ+ people. Through collaboration with community partners, this trip will highlight the different methods of advocacy for this population. Additionally, participants can expect to discuss topics such as LGBTQ+ healthcare, LGBT+ youth homelessness, and LGBTQ+ legislation. Our goal is for participants to actively engage in LGBTQIA+ dialogue and advocacy in the greater Knoxville community and ultimately, create a positive social change on campus.

Refugee Rights
Trip Leaders: Destiny Pearson (qnp534@vols.utk.edu) and Kassie Wolfe (kwolfe9@vols.utk.edu)
For thousands of refugees and immigrants settling in the United States each year, the challenges of successful integration and pressures of assimilation create barriers to establishing healthy and thriving lives. Uprooted from their cultures and communities - either by choice or force - they must navigate complicated processes as they add to the economic development and cultural richness of the area. Participants will learn about intentional steps to remove obstacles that often keep immigrant newcomers – and those who have lived in the city for years – from being successful. By engaging with community members, learning their stories and serving multiple organizations we hope to build authentic relationships and unity.
**Wealth Inequalities**  
Trip Leaders: Allison Clark (aclark94@vols.utk.edu) and Madison Woods (zyd245@vols.utk.edu)  

This trip focuses on wealth distribution and how the wealth inequality causes segregation in the trip’s location. This city is an example of disparity in wealth distribution because while there are certain areas and populations who experience major economic growth, there are neighboring areas and other marginalized groups who do not share that prosperity. Along with the wealth gap, there is a long history of discriminatory policies in this trip’s location whose repercussions can still be seen today. Participants on this trip can expect to explore numerous factors that are by products of wealth inequality including food access, unequal education, and affordable housing.

**Wealth & Power**  
Trip Leaders: Christina Cho (ccho4@vols.utk.edu) and Owen Flomberg (oflomber@vols.utk.edu)  

Housing, education, health, justice. All of these things are influenced by the growing wealth inequality and the list goes far beyond those four topics. On this trip, participants will explore the connection between wealth and power as well as the challenges that hinder those who fall into a lower socioeconomic status. Specifically, participants will examine how the wealth gap impacts communities in times of environmental disaster and the relief efforts that occur for years after.

**Women’s Empowerment**  
Trip Leaders: Lexie Judd (ljudd1@vols.utk.edu) and Sarah Kennedy (skenne20@vols.utk.edu)  

Inspiring and inciting change is exactly what our location has in its past, present, and future. This city has a strong legacy of equal rights movements culminating here to make change on some of the highest levels. It has paved the way in previous years to empower women across the country to stand up and make change. Nestled in a bustling and diverse location, this trip will focus on an intersectional approach to women’s issues; looking at what women face within homelessness, health, education, leadership, and so on. We are partnering with organizations at the forefront of these efforts of equality and fairness, and we’ll get to see and engage with these change-makers on a personal level. So, leave your cool caps at home and get ready to empower together with your fellow Volunteers on this trip!

**Youth Development**  
Trip Leaders: Caroline Begley (vlm746@vols.utk.edu) and Jon O’Leary (mwx414@vols.utk.edu)  

This trip will focus on youth development with a focus on minority stress and why youth development looks different for marginalized groups. We will be taking a family system look at youth development in that we are not just focusing on the individual children, but also them in the context of their community and family situations. On this trip we will be working with organizations that foster safe environment for children, as well as organizations that provide support for the parents as well. We want to show how we can be advocates for children that don’t have a voice, and to learn about the needs that different communities and families have.