ABOUT VOLBREAKS

Since 1993, the University of Tennessee has sent students all over the country to participate in a range of service activities during a university break. The mission of VOLbreaks is to engage students in meaningful and collaborative community service in an effort to increase awareness of social issues and strengthen the communities in which they serve as well as foster a strong sense of community among trip participants and to the university as a whole.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO LOTTERY?

- 1 color copy of your driver’s license
- Your Student ID Number
- $100 non-refundable cash or check (made out to the Alternative Break Program)
- Signed Expectations & Agreement of Conduct & Assumption of Risk Forms (attached)

WHAT ARE THE TRIPS I COULD GO ON?

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 (jmonarre@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 LGBT+ 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 (gnp534@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.

---

**ABOUT SPRING VOLBREAKS LOTTERY**

*Wednesday January 31st 6:30pm in Phase II of the Student Union!*

**What is the lottery?**
- Lottery is where you sign-up for your VOLbreaks trip!
- The lottery sign-up allows everyone to have the same chance at getting a spot on a trip of their choice.
- It is possible to come to the lottery and not be placed on a trip as demand sometimes exceeds the spaces available, but there is a wait list for each trip.

**What if I wanted to go on a trip with a friend?**
- We understand that the lottery system makes this hard. While there is still a chance you end up with a friend, if you don’t, *is that really so bad?* All of these trips are great experiences, and we are sure you will make new connections and best friends along the way!

**How does the lottery work?**
- *Print this lottery packet from the CLS website.*
- Bring your completed packet to the Student Union on January 31st at 6:30pm.
- Bring your $100 *non-refundable* cash or check.
- If you aren’t there by 6:45 pm, you will only receive an opportunity to sign-up following the entire lottery process.
  - *If you can’t make it by the start time, send a friend to attend for you, or communicate with us, and we can have someone from our office be a proxy for you!*
- Around 7:00 PM, we will begin calling numbers using a random selection process.
- When your number is called you go and sign-up for the trip of your choice.
- After you have signed up and met your leaders, you will complete other paperwork to go on your trip right then and there at the lottery.
- Each person will only be issued one lottery number.

**A few tips:**
- Come to the lottery with more than one trip in mind! That way you don’t even have to think about it when your number is called.
• Try not to be attached to going on the same trip as a friend, because great people sign up for all of these trips, and it can be a fun way to meet new people too.

Be advised:
• The University of Tennessee reserves the right to cancel or alter the trip format or to change costs in some conditions beyond our control.
• *All VOLbreaks trips are alcohol, drug, and tobacco free.*

Questions?
• Contact nfrankel@vols.utk.edu
In consideration for being allowed to participate in a Spring VOLbreaks Trip (“Activity”), which is a voluntary extracurricular activity being led by the University of Tennessee’s Center for Leadership and Service (“University”), I hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue, and agree to hold harmless for any and all purposes University, and its trustees, officers, employees, and agents (“Releasees”) from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, or injuries, including death, that may be sustained by me while participating in the Activity, while in transport to the Activity site, using equipment or facilities available to participants in the Activity, or while on the premises owned or leased by Releasees, including injuries sustained as a result of the negligence of Releasees. I acknowledge there may be physically strenuous activities. I know of no reason why I should not participate.

I am fully aware that there are inherent risks involved with the Activity and I choose to voluntarily participate in the Activity with full knowledge that said activity may be hazardous to me and my property. I acknowledge that the University may provide transportation by bus or van to an off-site facility. I voluntarily assume full responsibility for any risks of risks of loss, property damage or personal injury, including death, which may be sustained by me as a result of participating in the Activity, including injuries sustained as a result of the negligence of Releasees. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees for any loss, liability, damage or costs, including court costs and attorney’s fees that may occur as a result of my participation in the Activity.

I also give the University permission to obtain any emergency medical care or treatment by a physician, physician’s assistant, surgeon, hospital, paramedic, or medical care facility as may be needed by me and accept responsibility for the costs. I acknowledge that the University does not provide medical insurance for me and that I am responsible to obtain sufficient insurance.

I agree to follow all instructions and procedures established by University regarding the Activity and transportation to the Activity. I give the University permission to publish in print, electronic, or video format the likeness or image of myself for the general promotion of the University and its programs.

It is my express intent that this Waiver and Hold Harmless Form shall bind the members of my family and spouse, if I am alive, and my heirs, assigns and personal representatives, if I am deceased, and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee.

In signing this Waiver and Hold Harmless Form, I acknowledge and represent that I have read and understand it and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed; no oral representations, statements, or inducements apart from the foregoing agreement that has been reduced to writing have been made. I execute this document for full, adequate and complete consideration fully intending to be bound by the same, now and in the future.

SIGNED this ___ day of __, 20__.

Participant Signature: __________________________________________

Printed Name: __________________________________________
University of Tennessee – Knoxville, VOLbreaks Agreement of Conduct

Although we do not want to discourage anyone from attending a UTK VOLbreaks trip, we want to ensure that the nonnegotiable conditions of participation are clear. Please read the conditions below.

As a participant of the UTK VOLbreaks Program...

- I understand that I am a representative of the University of Tennessee that has been chosen by Center for Leadership and Service to represent it and its interests. As such a representative, I understand that any actions I take on my VOLBREAKS TRIP will negatively or positively affect opinions of others about our organization at UT.

- I will make my best effort to attend all team meetings, participate in pre-trip fundraising activities, and participate in all pre- and post-trip education and reorientation events (class and work conflicts are the only exception).

- I commit to a $250 non-refundable personal payment for the trip. I acknowledge that the full amount for the trip is due no later than Monday March 11th, 2019.

- It is my responsibility to bring my own spending money for activities not paid for by the VOLbreaks program, meals while travelling to and from the trip location, and other personal expenses.

- I will be on time for all volunteer commitments during my VOLbreaks trip and will participate in all aspects of the VOLbreaks program and its activities.

- I will travel with the group via UTK transportation and will stay with the group at all times. No visitors are allowed during the VOLbreaks trip for the safety of participants.

- At all times I will be with at least one other member of the group. Trip leaders will determine the number of the smallest groups allowed for each trip. Activities outside the scope of the program will not be accommodated and participants should not make outside commitments.

- I will exhibit sensitivity to the culture of the trip location; observe local rules and laws; and abide by the philosophy, structure, and regulations of our host agencies.

- I understand that the trip leaders will assist in arranging reasonable housing and service sites. Nevertheless, the exact nature and conditions of these sites cannot be guaranteed. Many of the conditions we expect at home (including: hot water, daily showers, washers/dryers, privacy, etc.) may not be available.
• I should not bring valuable items with me and I understand that the University, the Center for Leadership and Service, and the Housing Site are not responsible if my possessions are lost or stolen during my VOLbreaks trip. **Use of laptops or other technology should be limited to appropriate times that do not detract from the group experience** (i.e. no phones in nightly reflection, while serving vulnerable populations, or other times as made known by the ABLs and staff Learning Partner).

• It is my responsibility to ensure I am covered by a travel and/or health insurance plan for the duration of the program, which includes emergency medical evacuation. If I am not covered by health or travel insurance, I must sign an insurance waiver, acknowledging that although medical insurance is not required for trip participation, it is highly recommended. The waiver also acknowledges that the University of Tennessee does not provide medical coverage and that Participants are responsible for any expenses associated with medical transport and/or treatment. Although trip leaders and/or UT faculty/staff Learning Partners may recommend that a Participant receive medical attention, it is the Participant’s responsibility to make all decisions regarding his/her own appropriate health precautions and treatment.

• I am required to follow all safety guidelines established by the ABLs, host agency, and housing site while on a UT VOLbreaks trip, as well as during travel to and from the trip site.

• I may be in pictures or videos taken during activities associated with and during the trip and release the use of my likeness in these pictures and videos. They may be used for promotional materials for the VOLbreaks program, the Center for Leadership and Service, or other University of Tennessee programs, offices, or activities.

• I understand that a primary goal of the program is **learning**. Group reflection is a key component of the trip’s success, and I understand that all participants will participate in the reflection led by ABLs.

• I am a full-time UT student and will engage in behaviors that are responsible and mature and I will be responsible for my own actions and behavior and will be held accountable for actions and behaviors that violate the University of Tennessee’s Code of Conduct, which can be found by visiting: [http://studentconduct.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2017/08/381013-StudentCodeOfConductBook-vFINAL2accessible.pdf](http://studentconduct.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/53/2017/08/381013-StudentCodeOfConductBook-vFINAL2accessible.pdf)

• I will not bring, buy, sell, use, or consume alcohol, illegal drugs, or recreational drugs. Tobacco products may not be allowed at housing or service sites depending on the location. Participants will not bring, buy, sell, or use weapons of any kind, at any time, on the trip.

• In the event of war or conflict (declared or undeclared), natural disaster or any other potential threat, the Dean of Students or her designee reserves the right to cancel, abbreviate or modify this event or program.

• In order to remain a Participant, I must follow all program and University policies and adhere to trip leader instructions during the trip. If I voluntarily leaves the group, fail to follow University and/or UTK VOLbreaks policy, or is no longer deemed to be fit for participation and must be separated from the group, I therefore bear the responsibility for arranging and paying for return transportation. UTK is no longer responsible for me in this situation.
I acknowledge that *if I choose to drive a University of Tennessee vehicle while on the trip:*

- Only students currently on University of Tennessee’s payroll, or those who have watched the “Van Video”, are eligible to operate a UT vehicle and no personal use of the automobiles is allowed.
- I have a valid driver license. I will drive responsibly and courteously at all times. I will comply with all traffic and parking regulations. **Violations are the responsibility of the driver.** Occupants will wear seat belts at all times.
- I will not allow anyone who is not a UT employee (or van certified) to drive a UT vehicle in my possession & control.
- While using a UT vehicle, I am responsible for its condition and will make every reasonable effort to return the vehicle in substantially the same condition as I received it, ordinary wear and tear excepted. I also understand that **I or my department may be financially responsible** for damages resulting from abusive use of the vehicle in my possession. *(modified from the “Vehicle Use Acknowledgement” on the UT Transportation Services website)*

I have read the University of Tennessee’s 2019 Spring VOLbreaks Trip Agreement and agree to abide by its contents. I understand the arrangements made for me and my responsibilities.

________________________________________  ______________________________________
SIGNATURE OF STUDENT                      DATE

________________________________________
PRINTED NAME

________________________________________  ______________________________________
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN         DATE
IF STUDENT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

________________________________________
PRINTED NAME