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.

Total Cost: $250

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO LOTTERY?
- 1 color copy of your driver’s license
- 1 color copy of your health insurance
- 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?

Diversity & Inclusion (Liv Bell & Blake Clowers):
According to the CDC, more than “1 in 4 adults in the United States have some type of disability with percentages highest in the South.” This spring, we will explore the diversity of the disabled community and learn how to best incorporate inclusive practices in an urban community. The disabilities we will focus on include those that affect a person’s vision, hearing, thinking, learning, movement, mental health, remembering, communicating, and social relationships. On our trip we will have the opportunity to work with community partners who educate, advocate, research, and provide an abundance of resources. Upon our return, we hope to bring the knowledge we gain back to our own campus in order to create the positive, effective change necessary to ensure that all Vols are supported and given the tools they need to succeed.

Education (Wesley Smith & Kayla Sims):
Teacher strikes have risen across the United States in recent years, including in this VOLbreak city. These strikes have sparked a national discussion on education equity and informed this trip’s focus on issues of access, segregation, and school privatization in large urban school districts. Participants on this break will work first-hand with students, educators, non-profit leaders, organizers, and fellow participants for a week of meaningful service learning, increasing our individual and collective ability to build a more just education system.
Immigration (Katherine Fulcher & Cody Ramangkoun):
During the spring immigration trip, we will be learning about immigrant successes and struggles throughout the resettlement process. We will see firsthand how one of the largest immigrant communities in the US is able to thrive culturally and economically, despite being under constant pressure from various entities. Through service with local organizations who play a vital role in resettlement, we will develop a stronger understanding of how US immigration policies affect established communities and learn how to serve as better allies in Knoxville, and throughout the US.

Wealth Inequality (Viet Quach & Carmen Danley):
For spring break, we will be travelling to a major US city to observe wealth inequalities through the lens of racial injustice and youth development. This city is recognized as having unique and strong struggles economics as well as quality of life, unemployment and poverty rates, and crime. Additionally, average household income and life expectancy spring below the national average. During this trip, we will be working with youth centers and community partners to gain some educational insight on the city’s socioeconomic disparities. We hope that everything that is learned on this trip can be brought back to campus and be applied to the city of Knoxville.

Animal Welfare (Kaitlyn Knight & Emily Watson)
On this trip students will have the opportunity to serve with community members in serving the animals in their care. Students will have a chance to learn about the complex nature of animal welfare from domestic and exotic animals to wildlife. They will learn about the time, labor, and resources needed to care for animals who have seen habitat loss, injury, or neglect along with the many other reasons that animals end up in shelters, reserves, and sanctuaries. Along with this learning experience, students will build important bonds with their peers and with community members and grow through reflection as we take time to think about the impact and meaning of our experience.

Women’s Empowerment (Simeon Glover & Maggie Monaghan)
This spring break trip focuses on women’s empowerment in a major metropolitan city. Though a progressive metropolitan area, this city still has a large pay gap of 86 cents on the dollar. Our participants will learn about women’s issues through a variety of service opportunities, alongside community members also passionate about women’s empowerment, that relate to different aspects of being a woman such as mental and physical health, the wage gap, and hunger and homelessness. This trip will focus on the intersections of these issues and how they affect a woman’s life overall.

Public Policy (Maria Urias & Simon Jolly) (Only open to Honors students):
The VOLbreaks Public Policy trip seeks to educate students about public policy through volunteering with several non-profits, including ones centered around voter’s rights, environmental issues, education policy, and more. Non-profit advocacy and service is one of the most direct lines to public policy that every citizen can access; through the myriad of service opportunities, we wish for our participants to gain a clearer understanding of how policy influences all walks of life. We also wish through this service to show how all forms of oppression are linked, and how these forms are directly tied to legislation and policy standards passed by our government.

Environmental Justice (Kaylee Walper and Maria Valerio):
The environmental issues of today, from air and water pollution, fluctuating temperatures, and rising levels to name a few, affect everyone. However, marginalized populations suffer these consequences at a much greater rate. Our trip theme of environmental justice aims to consider not only the impact of humans on the environment, but also the impact of the environment on humans. We hope to identify root causes of environmental turmoil, learn about inclusive sustainable practices, and understand the intersectionality of the environment and various social identities. In this city specifically, the issues of racism and classism are becoming increasingly pertinent as environmental conditions continue to worsen. By engaging participants in service related to this trip theme, our goal is to return with a greater understanding of how we can leave a positive impact on the environments and people we interact with.
**Food Insecurity (Joelle Jarjoura & Wesleigh Wright):**
Over spring break, this trip will explore how access to affordable, nourishing food plays an important role in the health and wellbeing of both individuals and the communities in which they live. It affords participants the opportunity to serve alongside locals with organizations that approach the issue of food insecurity from a variety of angles. Students will receive an active education in the myriad of problems and intersections that contribute to food deserts, food swamps and the circumstances that create a lack of accessiblity to quality food. Through reflections and group conversations, this trip will inspire action and understanding that can be translated to continued service on our own campus and beyond.

**ABOUT SPRING VOLBREAKS LOTTERY**

*Wednesday, January 29 at 7:00pm in Phase II of the Student Union (Room 270)!*

**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 JCLS website.*
- Bring your completed packet to the Student Union on January 29 at 7:00pm.
- Bring your **$100 non-refundable** cash or check.
- If you aren’t there by 7:45 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 8:00 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 Maria Martinez, Coordinator, at maria@utk.edu
or Julia O’Reilly, Graduate Teaching Assistant, at joreill3@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:

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature: ________________________________(If Participant is under 18 years old)

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed Name: _____________________________ (If Participant is under 18 years old)
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 Tuesday, March 10.

☐ 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 VBLs 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 VBLs, 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 VBLs.

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

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 leave 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:
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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 2020 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

________________________________________

IF STUDENT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

DATE

________________________________________

PRINTED NAME