

University Parish Newman Center

2019 Alternative Break Immersion Trips Information

• ARISE Border Witness (Texas): March 23-30 •

Thank you for your interest in our Alternative Break Immersion Trip to Texas! Please read this information sheet carefully, fill out the attached application form and respond to the reflection questions. The information you provide will help the staff better discern and select trip participants based on the established criteria. Together, let us pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom throughout this selection process. For more information, please contact Jordan Cinderich at 330-678-0240 or jcinderi@kent.edu.

APPLICATION DUE

Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. – **late applications will NOT be accepted.**

REQUIREMENTS FOR TRIP

- **Students:** Be enrolled as a full-time student at Kent State University (undergraduate or graduate) in good academic standing (GPA: 2.5+)
- Make the required commitment: attendance at all preparation meetings (students and non-students – 6 meetings), fundraising activities, and other events.
- Participate in the February 16, 2019, fundraising dinner (students and non-students).
- Be in appropriate physical, emotional, psychological health.
- Be a patient and flexible team player.
- Be willing and able to cope with a variety of potentially challenging situations and circumstances, such as living simply, living in the context of community, and encountering people who live in abject poverty.
- Complete and submit all required application materials by **Wednesday, November 14, 2018.**

TRIP OVERVIEW: ARISE Border Witness to the Rio Grande Valley

Summary

This Spring Break, a group of 10 students, non-students, and your campus minister will travel to Alamo, Texas, for a six-day trip to work with ARISE, an organization dedicated to building strong communities based on strengths, respect and growth and through spiritual and personal development. ARISE was started by Sister of Mercy Gerrie Naughton who moved to Las Milpas, Texas, in 1987 and recognized a need for genuine community in a very poor area along the U.S.-Mexican border. Sister Gerrie sensed fear and isolation in the members of the community after they were transplanted from their homeland to their new host country. Sister Gerrie began to build the organization by going door-to-door and recruiting women interested in improving themselves and their community. Today ARISE has four different locations in the Rio Grande Valley. Each location's president was an original woman Sister Gerrie had recruited in 1987. Each location has two community partners and several teachers who run different programs offered to the community. Today, ARISE's 30 employees provide assistance to over 1,000 families.

ARISE will host the Newman Center for a Border Witness Experience, which will include cultural experiences, a trip to the border, direct service, and meeting personally with community partners (e.g. Catholic Charities, La Posada Providencia, The Young Center for Immigrant Children), and individual community members. We will walk together and learn firsthand about current issues in

our country and our Church, including immigration, women's leadership and empowerment, and building community. Knowledge of Spanish will be helpful but not required for this trip. This is a great opportunity for students and non-students to live simply in community with peers, experience cultural diversity, and understand social issues faced by border communities. For more information about ARISE, visit www.arisesotex.org. We plan to stay at the hotel at Basilica of the National Shrine of San Juan del Valle in San Juan, Texas (www.olsjbasilica.org).

Trip preparation begins in December to plan meetings and fundraisers for the spring.

ITINERARY

Tentatively, we plan to fly United Airlines out of Cleveland (CLE) to Brownsville, Texas (BRO), leaving Kent on Saturday morning, March 23. We will return to Kent on Friday, March 30.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Out-of-Pocket Cost: \$500

- Not included in these costs are checked baggage fees (\$25), personal spending money for meals on travel days, meals out on the town, souvenirs, donations to organizations, etc.
- A **\$150 nonrefundable deposit is due on Friday, December 7, 2018**, if you are selected for the trip. The remaining balance is due on or before Friday, February 8, 2019.
- The remaining balance for students (\$700) will be paid through individual and group fundraising activities. **A fundraising dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 2018.**

TIME COMMITMENT

Participation in this immersion trip will require an investment of your time and energy. This commitment involves attending all preparation meetings (six-90 minute meetings) to learn about the mission of ARISE; to learn about immigration issues related to Central and North America; to learn about our Catholic commitment to service and social justice; to build community with each other; and to prepare your heart. **When the group has been selected, staff and participants will decide on meeting times and plan group fundraisers. Full participation in group fundraisers is an expectation.** After the trip, participants will be asked to meet for a follow up/wrap up meeting and reunion. You will also have the awesome task of sharing your experiences and reflections with our parish community and other donors afterward.

LANGUAGE

Although this is a domestic service trip, we will be located in close proximity to the Mexican-U.S. border. Many of the people with whom we will work and spend time are Spanish speakers, so some knowledge of Spanish is helpful but not required.

2019 Alternative Break Immersion Trip Application

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INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Complete and submit this application no later than **Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at 5 pm.** Questions? Contact Jordan Cinderich, Associate Director of Campus Ministry at jcinderi@kent.edu or call 330-678-0240.

PART I: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Birthdate: ____/____/____

Address _____ Age _____
_____ KSU Student? _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Year (circle): Fr. So. Jr. Sr. Grad Major _____ GPA _____

Foreign travel experience(s): _____

Spanish Skill: Fluent ___ Proficient ___ Beginner ___ None ___

Do you have a valid passport?* YES NO
(if yes, please include a photocopy of your passport with this application)

***You must have a valid passport to travel domestically if your driver's license is from one of the following states as of January 22nd, 2018:**

Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana,
Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, or Washington

PART II: HEALTH AND WELLNESS INFORMATION

How would you describe your general health? Excellent Good Fair Poor

Do you have health insurance coverage? YES NO

Do you have any health concerns that we should be aware of? Do you request any accommodations? If so, please explain.

(i.e. allergies, diabetes, heart problems, back problems, etc.) Medical clearance from a physician may be necessary. **Please note:** Listing your health concerns will not exclude you from consideration from the trip, but will help us to accommodate your needs as best as possible if you are selected.

Do you have any dietary restrictions or preferences? Please explain.

PART III: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In 1-2 pages, please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. You may wish to answer each question individually or compose a short essay of 1-2 pages.

1. Describe your motivations for participating in this Spring Break immersion trip (personal, spiritual and/or academic). What hopes and expectations do you have for participating in an immersion trip?
2. Speaking from your heart, what do you know about the Church's teaching about immigration? What do you know about the issues facing the communities we will be in?
3. Have you participated in service and/or immersion trips in the past? If so, with what populations did you work (i.e. hungry, homeless, immigrants, persons with disabilities, home construction, etc.)? Describe your experience. If you have not participated in short-term or long-term service/immersion experiences, please describe some of your local community service involvement and how that has influenced your decision to apply for one of these trips.
4. Immersion trips are an opportunity for building community with those from the Newman Center as well as the people we will serve. In light of that, consider the following:
 - a. What does the oft-heard phrase "building community" mean to you?
 - b. How comfortable are you with being present vs. actively working on an activity?
 - c. What is your role in a group setting? What gifts do you have to offer?
 - d. What personal strengths and characteristics would you identify as potential assets to the group as well as to the persons you will encounter at ARISE?
 - e. What personal weaknesses would you identify as potential challenges to the group experience and your full participation?
5. Thinking about the preparation required for a trip like this (e.g. meetings, fundraisers, education), what challenges or conflicts do you foresee regarding your participation in this experience?
6. A fundraising dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 2019. Are you available to participate in this fundraiser?
7. Do you have any concerns or questions?

Please return this completed application to Jordan Cinderich by Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 5:00 pm. Your signature below indicates that you understand the commitment required to participate in this immersion trip, to attend all meetings, and to assist with group fundraising projects. After you are selected, you are responsible for a non-refundable deposit to secure your spot by Friday, December 7, 2018. The remaining balance is due in the Spring semester. You are responsible for any trip costs not covered by your out-of-pocket contribution and group fundraising.

Signature _____

Date _____