

Roots to Rights Alternative Spring Break 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Roots to Rights Alternative Spring Break (ASB)?

The mission of the Roots to Rights Alternative Spring Break is to give trip participants the opportunity to examine the dimensions of history and identity through an educational immersion experience. During spring break, participants meet with community members and leaders important to southern Civil Rights history to gain incredible first hand knowledge about the southern Civil Rights Movement.

Why is this trip “alternative”?

This is an experiential educational opportunity with a purpose to create connections, cultivate consciousness and engender change. This trip is drug and alcohol free, offering students an alternative to the more “traditional” spring break. This experience allows students to be immersed in environments that enable them to interact with diverse communities and consider a complex history and process of identity development and cultivating community across cultural differences.

When is spring break? When will R2R ASB begin/end?

This year, spring break will begin on March 9, 2018 and end on March 18, 2018. This trip is 6 days/5 nights, departing Durham on Sunday, March 11 and returning Friday, March 16.

Are there any prerequisites for applying to ASB?

No! All Duke students are encouraged to apply; there is no prerequisite of prior involvement with Jewish Life at Duke or the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture (the co-sponsoring organizations).

Is there a fee to participate in ASB?

Each participant will be asked to pay a nominal non-refundable participation fee of \$50. This fee secures your spot. The trip is being subsidized by the generosity of a donor, The Ronni Weksler Bermont Endowment Fund and Office of Undergraduate Education. Should you need financial assistance with the participation fee, please contact the trip coordinators. If you are selected to participate, materials, housing, food, admission fees to historic sites and transportation will be covered. Participants should plan to pay for additional meals and miscellaneous expenses.

How many students will be selected to participate in the R2R ASB?

A final number has not been set as we value quality over quantity. You can expect a maximum of sixteen students to participate.

What is ASB looking for in applicants? Who is an ideal ASB candidate?

There really is no perfect ideal ASB candidate. In fact, various different qualities and interests will ensure a diverse trip. Most important though are a general enthusiasm and willingness to explore history, self, and the connections we have to one another.

How do I apply?

Start by completing an application via the link at:

<https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/mlw/programs-services/roots-rights>

How does the R2R ASB selection process work? Do leaders choose the successful applicants?

The trip coordinators will choose participants. They will review all submitted and completed applications and may ask for an interview.

What is the timeline for the selection process? When will I know whether I have been accepted?
The EXTENDED deadline for applications is Friday, DECEMBER 1, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. We anticipate informing participants of their acceptance status no later than the week of December 11. After you have been notified, you will have approximately one week to decide whether you wish to accept the offer.

Do I have to have past travel experience to participate in ASB?

No. This is the fourth time this trip has been offered.

Can I apply to more than one ASB trip? Do I have to fill out a separate application for each?

You may apply to other ASB trips. You will need to complete separate applications as trips are not connected and nor is the application processes.

I am a past participant of an ASB, am I eligible to apply again?

Yes, as a past participant we actively welcome and encourage you to apply for the R2R ASB.

Can I still apply if I don't identify as Black or Jewish?

Yes. ASB considers people from diverse backgrounds who may be interested in learning more about Jewish and Black history and identity development.

Is R2R ASB religiously affiliated?

Alternative Spring Break is not religiously affiliated though visits to specific religious organizations/entities, because of their historic significance, will be a part of the experience.

The trip is open to participants of any faith or denomination.

Can I go on an ASB trip with my best friend, boyfriend, or girlfriend?

We will not honor requests to go on this trip with one of your friends / roommates / boyfriends / lovers. You and your best friend, boyfriend, or girlfriend can, of course, apply to go on the same trip, but one of our goals is to bring together members of the University community who might not otherwise interact in their usual social spheres.

If I decide that I do not want to participate in ASB after I turn in my deposit, can I get my money back?

Deposits are non-refundable.

Will there be faculty member(s) on the R2R ASB trip?

The coordinators, who are University administrators, will be on the trip. Additional faculty and staff are yet to be finalized.

How will we travel?

We will travel by mini-bus/motor coach with a company assigned driver.

Where will we stay?

We will stay in quality hotel accommodations (such as Residence Inn or Homewood Suites). We provide shared Queen Bed hotel accommodations with same gender room assignments made (shared beds/shared rooms) by coordinators. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about these accommodations when you apply.

What will our days be like?

We will have different base locations throughout the trip. You can expect to be changing locations every day and hotel accommodations will vary. Days will be long, but there will be opportunities for recreation and down time.

What should I bring?

Minimally you need to bring your own personal items such as rain gear, toiletries, water bottle, comfortable walking shoes and other items for personal comfort and convenience.

Do I need to bring my own food?

No. Meals will be provided. If we are given adequate notice we will try to accommodate more specific dietary restrictions and needs. Please be sure to include ALL food allergies or dietary restrictions on your medical screening form included with your acceptance forms. You may wish to bring special snacks.

Can I have/bring alcohol or drugs?

No. This Alternative Spring Break experience will be a lot of fun, but it will be alcohol and drug-free. Your week will primarily be about engaging history, meeting new people and having a great time. Consumption, possession, or transport of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited for the entire duration of the week of service. If you violate this policy, you can be dismissed from the site at your own expense.

What should I wear?

Casual college attire is generally acceptable. Once logistics are finalized, we will let you know if there are any special expectations for attire. If you are accepted to the program, you will receive a complete "Recommended-What to Bring" list with your acceptance packet.

What will the weather be like?

We will update the weather as we get closer to March. We will be travelling throughout the US South.

I am unsure if I want to apply for ASB, can I talk to someone in person about ASB?

Of course! The coordinators of this trip are Rebecca Simons, Director of Jewish Life at Duke and Chandra Guinn, Director of the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture. Both are anxious to talk with students about this exciting opportunity. You may also contact them at rootstorights@duke.edu.

What if I don't get selected to participate in this trip?

Know that space is limited and as such not every who expresses an interest may be able to participate. You can however participate in many of the programs offered by the co-sponsoring organizations during your Duke career and we hope you are inspired to visit the sites on the itinerary, which will be posted on our websites once all logistics are finalized.

Will ASB happen again next year?

We certainly hope to be able to offer future opportunities such as this one. This is the fourth time this trip has been offered and continues to be a learning experience for all involved. We will look forward to your feedback.

What do I do if I get sick on my ASB trip?

Coordinators are prepared to deal with illnesses and emergencies that may happen on their trip. Each will be carrying a first aid kit with them and is trained to respond to emergencies. Also, they will have a plan for situations like sickness.

I am abroad this fall. Can I still apply? How?

Yes. We would love for you to participate in ASB even if you are not in Durham during the application and interview period. Be sure to fill out the online application, and then please email the co-coordinators (rootstorights@duke.edu) for specific instructions about what you will do to interview.

I am not currently a Duke student, can I still apply?

No. This Alternative Spring Break is only open to current undergraduate students at the University.

Will ASB participants change their entire outlook on the world in one week?

ASB participants should realize that one-week, is just that one week and perhaps just the first step to expanding your horizons and having your consciousness raised about the history of the Southern Civil Rights Movement and your relationship to that history. We hope that the variety of activities experienced will better equip participants to ask different questions and consider different facets of their lives.

Read this entire document? Have Additional Questions?

Email Roots to Rights Co-Coordinators Rebecca Simons and Chandra Guinn at rootstorights@duke.edu. Please be sure to include R2R - ASB in the Subject Line of the Email.