



Alternative Spring Break (ASB)

Information Packet and Application

LOCATION

Memphis, Tennessee
McKellar Lake, a tributary of the Mississippi River
March 13-19, 2022

WHAT AND WHY

Working with an organization, Living Lands & Waters, students will have the opportunity to work alongside other student groups, as well as the infamous crew, to clean a tributary of the Mississippi River, which is currently loaded with garbage. Living Lands & Waters is headquartered in East Moline, Illinois and is a 501 (c) (3) environmental organization that was established by Chad Pregracke in 1998. Since it was founded, Living Lands & Waters has grown to be the only “industrial strength” river cleanup organization like it in the world. Spending up to nine months a year living and traveling on the barge, Living Lands & Waters crew hosts river cleanups, watershed conservation initiatives, workshops, tree plantings, and other key conservation efforts.

During this trip to Tennessee, Waubonsee students will be able to experience Living Lands & Waters and their efforts on the barge, learn about environmentalism and the impact that high volumes of garbage have on communities, and work together to pull hundreds of pounds of garbage out of McKellar Lake! So far, Living Lands & Waters (and over 108,000 volunteers) have removed over 10 MILLION pounds of garbage from America’s rivers!

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Each participant will be responsible for **up to** \$200 of trip fees. Student Life will pay the remaining cost of the trip. If fundraising efforts are successful, students will pay far less than \$200. Most years, students pay \$0 after fundraising. Fees pay for registration, transportation, meals, and lodging. *Note: If you are passionate about service and interested in ASB but worried that you could never come up with the funds, please talk to Mary Tosch, Student Life Manager (STC 126, mtosch@waubonsee.edu).*

Payment Schedule:

- There is a \$50 deposit due with your application.
 - If selected to go on the trip, this fee is non-refundable. If not selected, it will be immediately returned.
 - If a spot is offered and you turn it down, your deposit will not be returned.

- An additional \$75 will be due by February 11. If fundraising efforts are going well, we will waive this deadline.
- Any remaining balance will be due on March 7.

There are no refunds. Should you decide not to go on the trip after you accept, you will owe the \$75 that Student Life paid to hold your spot with Living Lands & Waters. ASB is a commitment and should be observed as such, from the moment you apply to the moment you return from the trip. Since we are driving and not flying, you will not be accountable for paying back a plane ticket, however, the commitment of \$75 should be taken seriously. Please reach out to Student Life if you have questions about refunds and commitments.

Miscellaneous Costs

There may be items on the packing list that you don't own and will need to go buy. We recommend purchasing these items from a thrift shop whenever possible. Always discuss concerns with the Student Life Coordinator.

The group will have one day free to explore and learn more about Memphis. Bring money for souvenirs, unplanned adventures, coffee, etc. Student Life will provide snacks and pay for meals. Additional snacks are the responsibility of the participant.

Fundraising

As a group, we will fundraise to offset the cost of the trip. This requires time and commitment from each participant. We will come up with ideas together, spend time planning and executing, and all share in the proceeds. Any money raised will be divided evenly amongst the group. As personal donations come in, we will track who they came from and you will be expected to write personal thank you notes.

If it is noted that you are not contributing to the fundraising efforts, you will be asked to pay the full \$200 out of pocket.

PREPARING FOR THE TRIP

The packing list will be refined and updated as the trip gets closer. Often, a site won't know our exact projects until a month out which will determine the final packing list. In general, you should be prepared to bring work clothing that will be destroyed. **Please note: when on the barge, it will be required to have work boots, rain boots, long pants, and items of clothing that can get destroyed.**

Must bring:	Recommended:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pillow & pillow case • Towel/washcloth • Sturdy work/hiking boots – puncture-proof soles are recommended for safety. • Work pants for response sites • Work Shorts for recovery– these WILL get destroyed • Second pair of non-worksites footwear • Water bottle • Personal first aid kit • Rain Gear (jacket, hat, etc.) • Personal cash and ATM/credit card (Volunteers are financially responsible for themselves) • Nice clothes (at least one set for community events, etc.) • Nice/comfy clothes (for after work and days off) • Lots of socks (these tend to disappear in a communal living environment) • Personal items/toiletries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket or sleeping bag • Extra work clothes • Laptop / camera / USB memory stick (for sharing photos!) / power adaptors • Earplugs and sleep mask • Books, games, DVDs • Make sure you are up to date with your tetanus shot • Sense of Humor <p>Remember, PACK LIGHT, space very is limited!</p>

ACCOMODATIONS

Comfort Inn, Downtown Memphis, TN. Rooms include 2 full sized beds and can accommodate up to four people per room.

GENERAL SCHEDULE (subject to change)

We will be working with Living Lands & Waters Monday through Thursday. These days, we will be volunteering a morning shift and afternoon shift, each lasting about 2.5 hours. Our entire days will be spent out on the water, either walking the banks or on the barge with the crew.

We will eat breakfast at the hotel every day, head out to the site (which is about 15 minutes from the hotel), work all day until 3 or 4 p.m., and then have time to shower, decompress, and then work together to reflect each day. We will be eating dinner together each night at different locations. Lunches are provided, and we will eat with the crew between our shifts each day.

FOOD

Living Lands & Waters provides lunches on the barge Monday-Thursday. Dinner is the responsibility of the groups with the exception of Sunday night (Sunday dinner will be at Central BBQ in Downtown Memphis, provided by Living Lands & Waters). The Comfort Inn Downtown provides complimentary hot breakfasts each morning. It is encouraged that groups bring snacks as well. Rooms have fridges and microwaves, if necessary.

COMMITMENT

Being an ASB participant requires time, energy and commitment. This commitment is needed before the trip to fundraise and attend preparation meetings, as well as during the trip. Beginning in January, the team will meet weekly. These commitments are required for us to effectively plan, learn, and bond as a team.

ASB is fulfilling but exhausting. Commitment is also required to keep your energy up during the week.

Required Meetings

- Orientation Meeting on Wednesday, January 26th at 3:30, Student Center 120
- Every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in the spring semester, Student Center 126 (beginning January 26).

REFLECTION

Reflection is a huge part of the volunteer experience. We will reflect as a team and individually on a daily basis. Additionally, upon returning, all ASB participants will be asked to write a reflection paper/ evaluation about what they learned on the trip and how it affected them. The results will be kept confidential and will only be used for program feedback and improvement.

ASB POLICIES

ASB participants are required to follow all Waubensee policies before, during, and after their trip. For more information on Waubensee Policies, please review the Student Code of Conduct. As with all Waubensee events, ASB is a drug- and alcohol-free experience.

APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCE

Applications are due on January 26. It is very important that you monitor your email. If you do not accept by the deadline listed, your offer (and your deposit) will be forfeited in order to allow other applicants the opportunity to accept.

SAFETY & AWARENESS

Please know that we will be working in water and/or on a barge for the entire duration of our ASB trip. If you are afraid of water, cannot swim, or get motion sickness, take note of the location and possibility of being irritated while taking part on this trip. Living Lands & Waters have also warned all groups attending of the possibility of poison ivy and bee stings. We will be required to wear long pants and boots during all work experiences, so the likelihood is slim, however it is important to note. If you have allergies or are worried about the possibility, please pack items accordingly in case you come across any of these irritants.

QUESTIONS?

Contact:

Mary Tosch, Student Life Manager

mtosch@waubonsee.edu

630-466-2317

STC 124



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Life

Office Use Only

Date: _____

Received by: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Check #: _____

Alternative Spring Break 2022

Participant Application

Requirements to apply (please check each box, indicating that you meet all requirements):

- ☐ Completed application following all directions
- ☐ 2.5 GPA or higher (*High School GPA will be considered if a first semester student*)
- ☐ Plan to enroll in at least 6 credits for the spring semester
- ☐ ONE letter of recommendation, fall class list, completed application

Students who have attended a previous Waubensee ASB trip will be considered last in order to allow other students to benefit from this opportunity.

Name: _____ Preferred Name/ Nickname: _____

X Number #: _____ Cell Phone/ Main Phone: _____

Birth Date (must be 18 by March 16, 2022) _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Local Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Primary E-mail Address: _____

Please list any health issues/ concerns and dietary restrictions: _____

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK AGREEMENT

By signing this statement, I _____ am agreeing to the following:
(Print Name)

(Please check each box indicating that you agree)

- ☐ To uphold ASB and Waubonsee policies throughout the preparation and execution of ASB;
- ☐ To fully participate in the preparation meetings;
- ☐ To make myself available for planning meetings that will happen every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in the spring semester, starting January 26;
- ☐ To fully participate in fundraising efforts and to be ethical in those efforts;
- ☐ To share all fundraising proceeds equally amongst the group;
- ☐ To meet all payment deadlines or forfeit the money that I have paid should I opt out of the trip;
- ☐ To reimburse Student Life the cost of holding my spot with Living Lands should I opt out of the trip;
- ☐ To submit a reflection paper upon completion of the ASB trip;
- ☐ I certify that I am a Waubonsee Community College student and in good standing with the College.

I have read all the above statements and considered them seriously. I fully understand all the above statements, and agree to comply with them. I give Student Life permission to check my grades and my conduct record. I am aware that using an electronic signature should be given the same legal force and effect as a handwritten signature.

Signature

Date

Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. Attach your typed answers to your application:

1. Why are you interested in participating in Waubensee Community College's Alternative Spring Break experience?
2. Is there something specific about Living Lands & Waters or the work that we will be doing that calls to/ intrigues you?
3. What are some of your goals for participating in the Alternative Spring Break experience?
4. What values, passions and strengths will you bring to your Alternative Spring Break team?

Note: The application for the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip is competitive. Only 12 applicants will receive offers and there are students who will not be selected to go on the trip. Selection will be based on academic performance, application quality and letter of recommendation.

Attached:

- ☐ **Typed** answers to the essay questions
- ☐ ONE recommendation letter
- ☐ Fall class list with names of instructors