University Parish Newman Center
2017 Alternative Break Immersion Trips Information

• ARISE Border Witness (Texas): March 25-31 •
  • Agua Caliente, El Salvador: May 23-31 •

Thank you for your interest in our Alternative Break Immersion Trips to Texas and El Salvador! Because spaces for these trips are limited, we are using a common application for both trips. 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 Mary Lynn Delfino at 330-678-0240 or mdelfino@kent.edu.

APPLICATION DUE
Friday, November 18, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. – late applications will NOT be accepted.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH TRIPS
• Be an active participant in parish life and/or the Catholic Student Association.
• **Students:** Be enrolled as a full-time student at Kent State University (undergraduate or graduate) in good academic standing (GPA: 2.7+)
• Make the required commitment: attendance at all preparation meetings (students and non-students – 6 meetings on Thursday nights), fundraising activities (students especially) and other events. We hope non-students will support and encourage student fundraising efforts.
• Participate in the February 18, 2017, 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 Friday, November 18, 2016.

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 American Airlines out of Cleveland (CLE) to Brownsville, Texas (BRO), leaving Kent on Saturday morning, March 25. We will return to Kent on Friday evening, March 31.

**ESTIMATED COSTS**

- Airfare & Ground Transportation: $700
- Housing and Meals: $260
- ARISE Program Fee (includes lunch): $200

**Out-of-Pocket Cost for Students:** $500  |  **Out-of-Pocket Cost for Non-Students:** $1200

- 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 9, 2016**, if you are selected for the trip. The remaining balance is due on or before Tuesday, February 14, 2017.
- The remaining balance for students ($700) will be paid through individual and group fundraising activities. **A fundraising dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 18.**

**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, especially for students, 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.

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TRIP OVERVIEW: El Salvador

Summary
This May, a group of students, non-students and staff from the Newman Center will travel to Agua Caliente in the Diocese of Chalatenango, El Salvador (Central America) for an immersion experience to visit Padre Rafael Fuentes and the Padre Nicolas Antonio Rodriguez Diocesan School (aka the Colegio). The Newman Center has maintained a longstanding relationship with our Salvadoran brothers and sisters since the early 2000s. Through direct service by students and non-students; annual fundraising endeavors, such as fall dinners and Collegians for the Colegio; and container projects that send supplies, we have been able to support a medical clinic; build a new chapel in nearby Tremedal; and provide ongoing support for the Colegio.

During this trip you will live among Salvadorans, sharing faith, life and culture; listening to their stories; and accompanying them in their daily lives. We will provide direct service at the Padre Nicolas Antonio Rodriguez School, assisting the teachers and students with English classes. Daily activities may vary, so it is important to remember that regardless of what we do, we will be called to be in relationship with our Salvadoran brothers and sisters, to live simply and to learn about the country’s economic, spiritual and political history. This immersion experience will include time in the capital of San Salvador, where we will visit the holy sites of the Salvadoran martyrs of the 20th century who died during the country’s civil war (1980-1992): recently beatified Blessed Archbishop Oscar Romero; the four American churchwomen martyred in December 1980; and the Jesuit priests and companions martyred at the University of Central America in November 1989. We will also have many opportunities to experience the beauty and the grandeur of this Central American country. Knowledge of Spanish is helpful but not required for this immersion experience.

ITINERARY
Tentatively, we will be flying Delta Airlines out of Akron/Canton (CAK), leaving Kent in the wee hours of the morning on Tuesday, May 23 for our 6:30 a.m. flight to San Salvador (connection in Atlanta). We will return to CAK on Wednesday, May 31 in the late evening. Because of the early departure and late arrival times, participants will be encouraged to find housing nearby if you are not a permanent resident of Kent.

ESTIMATED COSTS
Airfare & Ground Transportation: $700
Room & Board: $500

Out-of-Pocket Cost for Students: $500 | Out-of-Pocket Cost for Non-Students: $1200

- Not included in these costs are personal spending money, passport application (if necessary), immunizations, and money for trinkets and gifts to bring to El Salvador.
  - Passport Information: http://travel.state.gov/passport/
    Note: If selected, you may wish to take care of immunizations over Christmas break.
- A $150 nonrefundable deposit is due on Friday, December 9, 2016, if you are selected for the trip. The remaining balance is due on or before Friday, April 7.
- The remaining balance for students ($700) will be paid through individual and group fundraising activities. A fundraising dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 18.
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 El Salvador's history and culture; 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, especially for students, 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
Spanish is spoken in El Salvador. Though not a requirement for this trip, the ability to read and speak Spanish would certainly be an advantage to you if you were selected for this immersion experience.

Photos from El Salvador 2014

Photos from ARISE 2016
2017 Alternative Break Immersion Trip Application
Texas and El Salvador

INSTRUCTIONS
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. Complete and submit this application no later than
Friday, November 18, 2016, at 5 p.m. This application is for both trips. Questions? Contact Mary Lynn
Delfino, Pastoral Associate for Campus Ministry at mdelfino@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 ______

Trip Preference (please rank 1st and 2nd choices if you are open to both): Texas ___  El Salvador ___

Foreign travel experience(s): __________________________________________________________

Spanish Skill:   Fluent ___  Proficient ___  Beginner ___  Yo quiero Taco Bell ___

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

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. Please don’t be shy.
PART III: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In 2-4 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 2-4 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. Though difficult to predict the future, how do you hope this experience will shape your faith life?

4. 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.

5. What virtues are essential for participants in an immersion trip?

6. 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? Are you more of a leader or a follower?
   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 and at the colegio?
   e. What personal weaknesses would you identify as potential challenges to the group experience and your full participation?

7. Thinking about the preparation required for a trip like this (e.g. meetings, fundraisers, education), what challenges do you foresee regarding your participation in this experience?

8. A fundraising dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2017. Are you available to participate in this fundraiser? For students, this is mandatory. Non-students are strongly encouraged to assist.

9. Knowing that not everyone gets to participate in an experience like this, how would you creatively share your experience with the Newman Center community?

10. Do you have any concerns or questions?

The Fine Print

Please return this completed application to Mary Lynn Delfino by Friday, November 18, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. 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 nonrefundable deposit to secure your spot by Friday, December 9. 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 ________________