

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE

Alternative Breaks Program 2023

PUERTO RICO PROJECT



The Center for Social Change and Community Involvement is launching an immersive service learning trip to Puerto Rico to support local community projects during the 2023 spring break. Our team of excellent student participants will prepare for hands-on projects in community resilience and conservation as guided by partners including Community Collaborations International, Para La Naturaleza, and other organizations.

Through a series of curriculum-based meetings joined by guest speakers and community representatives, students are equipped with the tools and knowledge essential for effective service. This experience encourages the exploration of ethical service approaches, increases cultural competency and humility, and engages students with urgent global initiatives.

Please support the Center and our student participants in the cost of this immersive program. Donations assist with the cost of the alternative break program. We will also be hosting a fundraiser in spring to raise money for our local partners in Puerto Rico.

Every participant has a fundraising goal of \$750. Please make a donation to the participant-provided link to support these amazing leaders meet their goals!

[**Learn More**](#)

ALTBREAKS@LCLARK.EDU

MEET THE PARTICIPANTS



Carys Crawford

Hello All! My name is Carys Crawford (she/her). I am currently a first year and hoping to major in psychology and minor in neuroscience. I am incredibly excited to participate in the Alternative Breaks Program this upcoming spring and take part in learning new things about the Puerto Rican people and culture and the current issues they are enduring. I hope to bring back to campus moving experiences and newfound awareness in regard to issues that the Lewis & Clark community may not be privy to.



Sara Purković

Hi, I'm Sara! I am currently a sophomore majoring in International Affairs and Psychology and I am so excited for this year's Alt Break program! I am looking forward to learning more about Puerto Rico, providing service to its people, and bringing back my new insights to Lewis & Clark, as well as promoting the importance of volunteer work.



Alex Cortes

I'm a 4th-year Environmental Studies Major and Political Science Minor. I am excited to learn and listen from grassroots movements in what they're doing for their community and I want to bring back what I learned from the local community on how we on the mainland can support.



Lati Savadogo

I'm Lati, a sweet and smiling girl from Burkina Faso. I am majoring in Economics with a minor in Data Science and Entrepreneurship. I am passionate about social change and joining the Alt Breaks program is such an honor and joy for me. I am excited to better understand the challenge of the local community, how we can contribute to improving their lives and to bring a little joy to their faces. Seeing people happy has no price to me and I hope to bring back more love and passion of social change to L&C community. I hope this trip will equip me with a better understanding and strategies to serve the most needed communities and to help fellow students understand the importance of community service.

MEET THE PARTICIPANTS



Lillian Cassell

I am a first-year student here at LC and my major is currently undecided. I am excited about the Alt Breaks Program because this trip will be an amazing opportunity to learn about Puerto Rican culture, while also being able to serve the communities there in a very intentional way by connecting with non-profits already lending help to the area. I have never traveled to another country and going to Puerto Rico with members of the Lewis & Clark community will make the whole experience even more exciting. I hope the skills I will learn in Puerto Rico, like leadership and advocacy, will aid in me being a more active member of our Lewis and Clark community.



Liana Vargas

I'm a freshman majoring in History and I'm super excited to work together as a team and provide to a community that needs it. I want to bring back experience and different ideas to add kindness to campus.



Jack Waite

I'm a senior biochemistry major, and I'm excited to use the skills I have to do some good in the world!



Kai Emery

Hello! I am a junior Environmental Studies and French major from New Zealand. I love tattooing, the outdoors and vegan food! I am passionate about community service and environmental protection and can't wait to put these into action on the Alt breaks program. I am excited to broaden my understanding of Puerto Rico and learn about service work from a more global perspective. I hope to gain skills that I can use in future humanitarian work. Working with a diverse group of people and understanding their needs is an extremely important skill that I hope to develop more on the alt break program and apply to other opportunities in community service and to my time at Lewis & Clark.

MEET THE PARTICIPANTS



Helen Traczyk

My name is Helen and I am a senior Environmental Studies Major. I'm excited about the Alt Breaks program because I will get to experience and learn so much while helping a community in need. I'm looking forward to getting to know Puerto Rican culture and lifestyle as well as what kinds of struggle they are experiencing. I hope to bring back to campus a sense of passion about service work and what it can accomplish.



José Maidana

I'm a junior, Sociology & Anthropology and World Languages double major. I'm most interested in learning more about community organizing and conservation on the island as well as ways in which we might learn to be more politically motivated and driven for positive change.



Brooke Lehrhoff

I'm a sophomore and planning to major in Political Science. I'm excited to experience and learn from a place and culture, and I'm looking forward to bringing back knowledge of conservation and how those efforts can be implemented and expanded in our campus community!



Katrina Kuzmina

My name is Katrina, I am a senior at LC majoring in Rhetoric and Media Studies and minoring in Entrepreneurship. I am excited about Alt Break because I cannot wait to do what matters. Something I want to bring back to campus community from this program will be the global perspective and community engagement.

CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS TEAM



Damaris Medina Student Leader

My name is Damaris and I am a Psychology major with the hope of minoring in Ethnic Studies. I'm very excited to learn from and collaborate with the students, guest speakers, and partner organizations in Puerto Rico. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to grow as an employee and person.



Leah Huffington Student Leader

Hi everyone! I'm a sophomore majoring in Economics and minoring in Hispanic Studies. I am ecstatic to help students combine direct service experiences with reflection dialogues to promote the growth mindset of L&C students. Equipping students with the tools, knowledge, and cultural humility crucial for amplifying the needs of underserved communities enables us to escape harmful narratives of power and privilege. As a result, students engage with non-hierarchical volunteerism and active citizenship while pushing for better representation of marginalized groups in community discourse within the academic sphere.



Allison Beebe Program Coordinator

Working with community partners, student leaders and participants in organizing this Alternative Breaks program has been a highlight of my last year working with the Center. As an AmeriCorps service member, I've learned how to adapt my volunteer approach to support the immediate goals of a community project. I'm eager for this program to encourage a similar exploration of volunteerism within diverse communities and provide opportunities for students to support valuable projects guided by our partners in Puerto Rico. I hope that the experiences, skills, and connections formed during this trip will translate to any community project students are involved with in the future.



Andrea Salyer Director

I am honored to be a part of this trip. Our student leaders have worked incredibly hard to make this program intentional; from building a pre-trip curriculum to address critical topics like white saviorism and colonialism, to coordinating speakers that can share lived experiences from Puerto Rico, to considering how we can connect with future Posse Scholars and community organizations while there—it's really going to be a phenomenal experience that hopefully will be meaningful for the communities we work with and the student participants as well.