Resident Scholar FAQ

This list is a series of Frequently Asked Questions that faculty and staff may have about the Resident Scholar role with the Georgia Southern Alternative Break (AB) Program. If you have a question that is not included on the list, please contact Brandi Hoffman at brandihoffman@georgiasouthern.edu or 912.478.1435.

What is my role as a Resident Scholar?
As a Resident Scholar, you will be expected to participate in at least one pre-break meeting as well as service, education, and reflection during the Alternative Break. You will travel and stay with the group for the duration of the experience as the students do. The AB Program is student-led. On occasion, a Site Leader will encounter a challenging situation and will need support from their Resident Scholar. Site Leaders are student leaders who go through a series of trainings and have participated in at least one AB. They will prepare the education and reflection, coordinate logistics, and take lead responsibility for each Alternative Break. As the Resident Scholar, if you have a particular expertise or interest in a social issue, we invite you to join the Site Leader in facilitating the education process to create a deeper learning experience for all involved.

Is it my job to take care of pre-break paperwork, passports, etc. for the students in the group?
The Coordinator of Alternative Breaks & Community Partnerships and the Site Leaders will ensure all paperwork is complete by specified deadlines. You will receive copies of relevant paperwork for your break prior to departure, but do not need to worry about collecting the paperwork from the students.

Tell me more about the break logistics: Will I have internet access? What will the sleeping arrangements be? How many other staff/faculty will there be?
Each Alternative Break will look a little bit different, but economy is the norm. If there is internet access, we discourage everyone from bringing computers or tablets for both liability purposes and to keep the focus on the experience. For the majority of our breaks, you will carpool in University vans. We typically stay in a community center, church, cabin, or similar housing, and meals are communal. While it is unlikely that you will have your own room, we do try to divide the living spaces by sex when able. Alternative Breaks generally include 1-2 Site Leaders, 1 Resident Scholar, and 7-10 student participants.

How much will going on this Alternative Break cost me?
Out of appreciation for you serving in the role of Resident Scholar, your transportation, meals, and housing will be covered in full. For those breaks require food purchases, we work with Resident Scholars to complete a cash advance to purchase food items for the group upon arrival to the site. If any costs are incurred for the group or general break purposes above the granted cash advance, the Resident Scholar will be reimbursed after completing the necessary paperwork.

Will you connect me with someone who has been a Resident Scholar in the past?
Absolutely! Contact the Office of Leadership & Community Engagement at 912.478.1435 and we would be more than happy to connect you with a Resident Scholar from previous years.

What happens if a student gets injured or sick, disciplinary action seems necessary, etc.?
Prior to the Alternative Break, you will receive a list of Emergency Contacts who will be “on call” during the week. If a student is injured, sick, or does not adhere to the signed Behavior Contract, please use this emergency number to determine the best course of action. In the event that the injury is life-threatening or needs emergency medical attention, call 911 prior to calling the emergency number provided. Please note that it is not the responsibility of the Resident Scholar to contact parents.