



CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Alternative Break - Frequently Asked Questions

- Do groups or participants have to be Catholic?
 - We welcome everybody. Catholic Charities of Baltimore serves all people regardless of religious belief, and it is the same for our partnerships with volunteers and community members.
- What does Catholic Charities provide and what are groups responsible for?
 - We'll plan your volunteering, assistance with lodging, orientation to CC at the beginning of week and at each site, a point of contact if you need any assistance during your stay. Groups should be prepared to handle their own transportation to and from sites, cook and pack meals most days, and facilitate their own reflections during the week, as desired. Groups will be independent when not actively serving at a volunteer site, which gives groups the flexibility to spend that time however they choose – reflection time, exploring the neighborhoods, etc. Let us know if you want recommendations for what to do in Baltimore!
- What types of service will we be doing?
 - Groups do a variety of service activities throughout the week. This typically includes preparing and serving meals, leading activities and spending time with the people we serve (Bingo, music, reading, games, gym class with kids, etc.), outdoor grounds work in our gardens and nature trails keeping space beautiful for clients, helping in classrooms, and other miscellaneous tasks that keep our programs running!
- Where will we stay during the week?
 - Catholic Charities currently partners with Lovely Lane United Methodist Church to lodge our groups during their stay. While at Lovely Lane, groups will have access to a full kitchen, showers, and reflection space. Groups will stay camping-style in classrooms at the church. Another local option for lodging is the South Baltimore Retreat House. Groups can also choose to secure their own lodging elsewhere – just let us know!
- How much does it cost?
 - Catholic Charities asks for a donation of \$10/person per night. Groups should also plan for cost of lodging and potential parking costs in the city (though many of our volunteer sites have off-street parking). Lodging at

Lovely Lane United Methodist Church costs \$15 per person per night plus a \$350 sexton and kitchen fee.

- How big can groups be?
 - Right now, we can accept groups as small as 4 and up to 8 people, with potential to discuss groups larger than 8.
- Are meals provided?
 - Some service sites provide meals to volunteers but, for the most part, groups should plan to prepare their own meals and/or bring bag lunches to service sites. Our trip coordinator will indicate on your volunteer schedule which locations will provide meals so your group can plan ahead.
- How will groups get around to service sites?
 - Groups are responsible for their own transportation in Baltimore. We will provide parking information for each of your service locations. Most service sites have off-street parking available.
- Do faculty advisors need to attend?
 - It is up to your school whether faculty or staff need to attend. We work with groups that send faculty advisors as well as those led by student leaders. Contact information for our trip coordinator will be provided so groups can reach out at any point during the week if they need anything. However, Catholic Charities staff do not stay with the group during the week, and groups are independent when they are not actively serving at one of our sites.
- Will we have time to explore the city?
 - If you would like to! Just let our coordinator know so we can leave some time in your schedule for this.
- What should we bring?
 - Comfortable, close-toed shoes
 - A baseball cap if you do not wish to wear the provided hair nets when serving meals
 - Clothing that does not contain political slogans or offensive language
 - Sleeping bags, pillows, sleeping mats, air mattresses (anything you need to be comfortable camping out on a classroom floor)
 - Towels, shower shoes, toiletries
 - Weather-appropriate clothing, as some of our service activities are outside
- What time of year can we come?
 - We accept groups year-round. Fall break, winter break, spring break, or anytime in-between!