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Alternative Spring Break Offers Students Hands-On Service Learning

Winthrop University

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Quick Facts

- The 2014 Alternative Spring Break locations include cities in Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama.



Alternative Spring Break 2012

ROCK HILL, S.C. – Nearly 40 Winthrop University students and employees will spend the university's scheduled March 17-21 spring break bettering the environment, helping the homeless and engaging in service learning through the **Alternative Spring Break program**.

The community-service program is coordinated by the **Center for Career and Civic Engagement**. It allows students to be involved in learning-based service projects, where they learn about problems faced by community members with whom they otherwise may have had little or no direct contact.

During the March 17-21 break, students were able to choose from three service options this year:

* **Harlan, Ky.:** Appalachia, an impoverished coal mining area in the Appalachian Mountains, provides 40 percent of America's electricity. Students will work with the Mountaintop Removal Mining to learn more about the environmental factors that result from the controversial issue of coal mining. Students will view documentaries, visit museums, and plant new trees to restore old strip mines, among other tasks.

* **Atlanta, Ga.:** The city is home to more than 20,000 people who are homeless and another significant percentage of people who are hungry. Students will work with Safe House Outreach in soup kitchens, and help coordinate resource drives. Safe House Outreach strives to reduce homelessness and poverty in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

* **Selma, Ala.:** Selma is arguably best known for the Selma to Montgomery civil rights marches that originated in the city. Students will be exposed to diverse service learning while also exploring the civil rights movement first hand.

For more information about the program, please contact Laura Foster, volunteer and community service program director, at 803/323-2141 or [e-mail her](#).

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