Buck-I-SERV

Purpose
Buck-I-SERV is Ohio State’s alternative breaks program that, with Student Activity Fee funding, coordinates with service agencies on the national and international fronts to create weeklong, substance-free trips centered on community service and civic engagement. Buck-I-SERV’s mission is to provide students with challenging and exciting opportunities to lead and learn through direct service experiences.

Impact
By working in diverse environments that sometimes challenge their comfort zones, students gain new perspectives regarding social justice and civic engagement while learning about the importance and significance of reflection. Students work to meet community needs, build on community assets, and bring their experiences back to campus with them at the closing of their trip.

Through this life-changing experience, students have the opportunity to build new friendships while working together to meet the needs of a community and build on that community’s strengths. Over 65 of these alternative break trips are planned each year.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved
Office of Student Life
Office of International Affairs
Multicultural Center
The Ohio State University Alumni Association

“We also involve a variety of other colleges/units across Ohio State’s campus through our trip advisors’ involvement. Each trip departs from Columbus with at least one faculty/staff or graduate student advisor, from a variety of units on campus.”

Community Partners Involved
Habitat for Humanity
One Heartland
Guadalupe Center
Food and Friends
One World Running
Operation Breakthrough
Gay Men’s Health Crisis
God’s Love We Deliver
Steel Yard
Arc of Baltimore
Community Collaborations International
Michigan Urban Farming Initiative
North Texas Food Bank
Greater Boston Food Bank
Youth Services Opportunities Project
United Way
Once Upon a Time in Appalachia
Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park
Greenville Humane Society
American Hiking Society
Gesundheit Institute
Medici Project
Lower Nine
Peace River Refuge
Florida Aquatics Preserve
Pinellas County Sea Grant
Pelican Harbor Sea Bird Station
Association House of Chicago

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The Ohio State University