Radford, VA – College spring break is a time for fun, excitement, and peer bonding; Universities including Radford have designed trips for all of this plus community service and positive change.

Every year, college students anticipate those early weeks in March that their annual spring break trip takes place.  Whether it is Mexico, the Bahamas, or any other vacation spot the usual idea is to go somewhere tropical and unwind for the week.

Universities have started to plan trips for these breaks that are a bit different than the usual, but involve outdoor recreational activities, a time for learning about the environment, and a time to give back to people while being involved in community service projects.

This year for Spring Break, a group of about 12-15 Radford University students will be sent to the Mountain Justice Spring Break in Appalachia, Va.  There, the students will be involved in multiple activities to keep them busy.

The students will be working with a small community in Southwest Virginia along with Mountain justice to meet and help the people working to improve the conditions in Appalachia as they build skills as change agents.

“We will be involved in site tours, community service projects, learning about sustainable living, Appalachian culture, and along the way we’ll have fun, go hiking and other fun things!” said trip leader Astin Altenburg.

Food and shelter will be provided throughout the trip for the students.  The trip will cost about $250 which comes in as a relatively low price compared to the other trips students are going on.  If the students are unable to afford this fee, trip leaders have encouraged them to speak with them as they do not want the price to affect anyone’s ability to go on the trip.  Applications for the trip will be accepted at https://survey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\_3Jft9Cd9KMZxDU0.

If there is enough student interest, there will also be a group of Radford students sent to Blackville, South Carolina.  This trip will consist of building and repairing homes and community facilities as well as parks and playgrounds in this rural South Carolina town.  While on the trip the students will get the chance to meet the people in the town and learn about their culture and what they hope for the town in the future.  The fee for this trip is totaled at $330, which is once again much cheaper than trips other students are planning.  Once again, if the money is a problem, students are encouraged to talk with the leaders to build a plan for payment.  Applications for this trip are available at https://survey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\_9ugsap9ilDrhLfe.

“Alternate spring break is a really great option,” said Senior Alexia Springer, “I’ve been multiple times and have had a blast and really helped a lot of people.”

Radford is encouraging students to get out there and help others during the alternate spring break trips while having fun in the meantime exploring the great outdoors.