
Catholic Order of Foresters Alternative Break Fundraising

Reach out to your relatives, friends, co-workers, parishioners, court members and neighbors to help you reach your personal fundraising goal!

Court Sponsorship: Ask the chief ranger of your local court if the court will sponsor you. Sponsorship can include alternative break fees, travel expenses or a specified dollar amount. Offer to attend a court meeting after the trip to describe your experience.

Letters: Each participant can send fundraising letters to family, friends and organizations. This is an effective way to share information about the trip and ask for support. We created templates for you to use, and they're included in this packet.

Free Will Offering Dinner: Know someone hosting a community dinner with a free will offering? Ask if a portion of the donations can be used for your trip expenses!

Restaurant Return: Ask a local restaurant to host a night when a percentage of the profit goes toward your alternative break expenses. Distribute a flyer to family, neighbors and friends to invite them to eat out with you that evening!

That's a Wrap: Wrap shoppers' presents in stores for a small fee. Obtain permission from the business before you set up your wrapping table. Bring a variety of wrapping paper, tape, scissors, ribbons and tags. Have information about your trip handy so people know what the fee is for.

Keep the Change: Ask local businesses or parishioners if they're willing to donate their change. Collect donors' contact information so you can send them a thank you note! You can also ask the families of your parish to set up jars or cans in their homes to collect coins for your trip.

Counting Cards: Number envelopes from 1-25. Encourage participants to pick an envelope. The envelope number they pick is the amount that they will donate. This can work in church settings and is an easy way to raise \$325!

Pre-Trip Letter

Dear <Name of Recipient>,

<Tell a little about what is going on in your life>. Because of your important role in my life, I would like to share a great opportunity that I believe God is leading me to. It's an opportunity to serve people in <trip location>, on a short-term mission trip from <trip start date> to <trip end date>.

For the past few months, I have been thinking and praying about going on this trip with Catholic Order of Foresters. (a fraternal benefit society that supports Catholic communities through spiritual, social and service projects.) I believe this is a new step that God is asking me to make, and I am excited for all that I will learn.

Our group will be giving back to a community in need through repairs, landscaping, evangelization and prayer!

As I prepare for this trip, please pray for our safety and God to work in and through me. Prayer is the fuel that will propel us to be successful as we follow God's lead in <trip state>.

In addition to prayers, I humbly ask you to consider supporting me. If you would like to be part of this mission through financial support, please know any amount make a difference. I am asking for donations by <date>. The total cost of the trip is <cost>. This includes my airfare, meals, ground transportation and lodging.

Please make checks out to <insert name> and write "COF Alternative Break" on the memo line. Checks can be returned to me in person or via mail.

Thank you for considering prayerful and financial support of us. This trip would be impossible without the generosity of my family and friends like you. And since prayer is so important to the success of this mission, I hope that I can count on you in that area.

I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with you when I return.

God bless,

[Signature]

[Your Name]

Tips for Thanking Your Donors

Without them, this trip would not have been possible. Show your appreciation!

- 1. Share pictures!** Invite friends and family over for a viewing party. Show them photos from your trip, share your experiences with them, and enjoy a meal or snack. Print some pictures and mail them to your donors with this thank you card. Write the location or a caption on the back of the photo. Use your social media accounts! Share on Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- 2. Keep people in the loop.** While you are preparing to embark on this awesome trip, keep your supporters updated. Most likely, your supporters are friends and family that already care and know a lot about you. Tell them about your travel arrangements, how packing is going, and what you are feeling during this whole experience. Are you excited? Are you nervous? Your supporters want to know so that they can help.
- 3. Write and send thank you notes.** While you might have thanked your supporters in person, it is nice to send a personal thank you note to them. In this letter, you can provide stories and pictures from your trip. Here are some templates to get you started!
- 4. Say a thanksgiving prayer and a prayer for your supporters.** Thank God for being able to provide this opportunity. Pray for your supporters, asking God to bless them as much as he has blessed you.

Thank You Letter – Financial

Dear <Name of Recipient>,

As you might remember, I signed up to participate in Catholic Order of Foresters' Alternative Break to <trip location>. I recently returned home from the trip, which was an incredible experience! In just one short week, I had some of the most remarkable and blessed experiences, which included <list your experiences>.

Thank you for your donation to my trip! <Tell your donor a little bit about the trip – What was your favorite part? Did you have a holy spirit moment that you would like to share?>

Thank you for helping me make a positive difference and your financial support! My life has changed for the better because of this trip. I appreciate you believing in me.

The kindness that you've shown has been incredible, and I'm blessed to know you.

May the Lord bless you and your family for being a part of God's transformation of not only my life, but also the people in <trip location>.

<If you want to share pictures, add in how they can look at them- via Google Drive, social media or attached pictures>

Thank you again for your generosity and support!

[Signature]

[Your Name]

Thank You Letter – Spiritual

Dear <Name of Recipient>,

As you might remember, I signed up to participate in Catholic Order of Foresters' Alternative Break to <trip location>. I recently returned from the trip, which was an incredible experience! In just one short week, I had some of the most remarkable and blessed experiences, which included <list your experiences>.

Thank you for your prayers during my trip! <Tell your supporter a little bit about the trip – What was your favorite part? Did you have a holy spirit moment you want like to share?>

Even though the trip was wonderful, there were times I felt overwhelmed with the work, but I was comforted when I remembered that you were praying for me. I truly appreciate the support you have shown. Thank you for the kindness you've shown and for being there when I needed help. People might not realize the importance of prayers, but I realize the importance of yours. I believe prayer was the driving force behind the group's successful trip.

May the Lord bless you and your family for being a part of God's transformation of not only my life, but also the people in <trip location>. Please continue to pray for them.

<If you want to share pictures, add in how they can look at them- via Google Drive, social media or attached pictures>

Thank you again for your encouragement and thoughts!

[Signature]

[Your Name]