February 3rd, 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

I am participating in an organization at UVA called Alternative Spring Break (ASB). As the name suggests, ASB is an organization at the University of Virginia that provides students an opportunity to participate in a spring break that deviates from the stereotypical “24/7 party” college spring break. Instead, ASB trips participate in volunteering, community engagement, outdoor recreation, often in cultures that are distinctly different from the one on Grounds; free from alcohol and other substances. We organize around 30 trips a year for UVA students.

During the week of March 5-13th, I will be traveling to the northwest rim of Grand Canyon National Park as well as Zion National Park to work on environmental conservation projects with my peers. In the Grand Canyon, we will be working at the most remote park ranger station in the continental United States, helping the lone park ranger who lives there. There are many projects that this park ranger simply cannot do on his own and our group will be there to assist him. We will be working on trail-maintenance, restoring the campground, and working with a re-vegetation team to restore native plant species. In Zion National Park we will be working with the Native Plants Nursery on re-vegetation and restoration projects. In our free time during the week we’ll explore the parks on days hikes and make campfires and stargaze in the evenings.

I have put a lot of time into preparing and applying for this trip, but unfortunately it requires more than time in order to make the trip possible. I am writing to you to ask for your help. Any financial contribution (large or small) would be greatly appreciated, as ASB receives no funding from UVA. The cost for one person to participate is $800, which covers transportation, lodging and meals during the trip. More information about the trip and ASB can be found at: [www.altbreak.org/sites/spring/domestic/grandcanyon.html](http://www.altbreak.org/sites/spring/domestic/grandcanyon.html). I am really looking forward to ASB as a potentially perception changing and education enriching opportunity and I would be extremely appreciative of any support you could give towards elevating my college experience.

Following the trip I will be sending out a letter with the details of my experience and I will be sure to send you one. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,