FIT RESIDENTIAL LIFE OFFICE

# ON-CAMPUS

RESIDENTIAL LIFE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011


**RESIDENTIAL LIFE OFFICE**

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## H.O.M.E. SELECTION PROCESS

Congratulations, to those students who have completed the H.O.M.E. application for fall 2011 You have been guaranteed housing!

**Applications are still available!**

Residential Life is still accepting applications. Housing will be granted based upon availability.

**Need more information?**
**http://fitnyc.edu/7281.asp**

## SUMMER IN THE CITY

**FIT is...HOT!**

**Our summer housing is cool.**

Live and Learn at FIT this summer.

Summer housing is available.

Visit our website for dates of stay and rates.

www.fitnyc.edu/summerhousing

# SPRING BREAK SAFETY

With Spring Break around the corner, remember these safety tips so that you have an enjoyable but safe time with whatever you decide to do!

Any travel holds inherent dangers. You can be held up at home while walking to your local convenience store or in a back alley in Istanbul, though -- travel abroad is, just like merely walking down the street at home, largely as safe as you make it. Your first trip away from home may occasion special safety considerations, however:

- If you've grown up in a small town and this is your first big trip, you may not be prepared for the fact that not everyone you meet in a big city has your best interests at heart.
- Not being able to speak the local language while traveling abroad will hinder you from getting help.
- Street crime takes forms abroad that you may not have seen at home, even if you live in a large city. Nomadic ethnic bands, especially in Eastern Europe, specialize in ingenious street crime methods designed to lighten your load.
- Scam artists, conmen and touts may target you because of your youth, which they might equate with naitivete.

**How to Plan Safe Travel**

- Check U.S. government issued travel warnings and consider not choosing a destination that the State Department is advising Americans to avoid -- the travel warnings are updated frequently during times of extreme unsettlement abroad.
- Check Consular Sheets to find areas of instability and the American Embassy location in your destination area. Consider registering with the US Embassy in the country you are visiting if you're staying longer than a month or the scene there is especially sketchy (like recent political unrest) -- if you find yourself in an particularly difficult position, your government, at least, will know where you are, which can be a help if you find yourself in need of a repatriation loan to get home or other emergency assistance from Uncle Sam.
- Invest in a phrasebook and memorize some possibly helpful phrases before you leave home. In countries where Spanish is the predominant language, for example, you may want to know phrases like these:

- Socorro! ( Help! )
- Llama a la policia! ( Call the police! )
- Vayase! (Go away!)
- Ladron! (Thief!)
- Me han robado! (I've been robbed!)
- De'jeme sola! (Leave me alone!)

**Stay Safe While Traveling**

- Use the same safety precautions you would at home: consider avoiding walking alone on deserted streets after dark, keep your travel cash stashed and stay alert.
- Learn the laws and customs of the land you're visiting -- for instance, Mexico is infamously (and often unfairly, these days) known for "la mordida" (the bite), or bribery of public officials like police; know your rights and know that you don't have to hand out money for nothing. Keep in mind, though, that there are times when forking over a few local bucks in any country can send you safely on your way if you're willing to back down in the interest of moving on after something like a routine traffic stop.
- Eschew illegal drugs or underage drinking, lessening your chances of brushes with the local law.
- Acquaint yourself with common street crime scenarios so that you can avoid or escape them. Although this street crime scam regards Turkey, the scams and pesky pickpocket scenarios it details are global.
- Pay attention in taxis and on trains: you're unlikely to get too far from your bags during air travel, but losing 'em to someone who really wants 'em during other transportation is easier than you might think -- and the wrong cab can be a costly and even (on very rare occasions) downright deadly mistake in some countries.
- It goes without saying that you will never agree to carry anything in your baggage if a stranger or even a friendly acquaintance asks you to do so; check your bags carefully before crossing a border or boarding a flight to ensure that their contents are yours and yours alone. You're guilty until proven innocent if your baggage contains contraband or explosives.
- It's true that women do need to shoulder a couple of extra cares when traveling -- which doesn't mean hiding in the hostel if you're female. Do a little prep thinking, and you'll be perfectly fine, even solo: stay safe, but don't stay home!

Prepared? Enjoy!

The bottom line: study and preparation will equip you with the knowledge you need to avoid getting mugged, ripped off or jailed (all of which are actually unlikely to happen to the vast majority of travelers). People you encounter on your journey will be as likely to be friendly and honest as the people you know at home. Don't be afraid to get to know the locals and tread the back streets - just travel with the same safety sense you show in your own back yard. And enjoy the trip!

http://studenttravel.about.com/od/safestudenttravel/a/safetravel.htm

# ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK IDEAS

The phrase "alternative spring break" (ASB) usually means volunteering for spring break, a very rewarding way to spend your time off. So who's doing what where, when, and how for an alternative spring break in 2011? College students can seek alternative spring break sun and sand while volunteering in Central American conservation and home building projects with i-to-i, United Way is sponsoring alternative spring break for volunteers in the US, and non-profit housebuilder Habitat for Humanity is again seeing a serious swell of students turning up to pound nails in storm-slammed Gulf Coast communities. In a very cool development for 2011, Projects Abroad is now offering short-term volunteering abroad opportunities specifically designed for one-week spring break trips. And you can build your own alternative spring break ideas, too, like rebuilding national park trails or finding the perfect volunteer match near you. Check out a few alternative spring break ideas for volunteering this year:

**United Way Alternative Spring Break 2011**

After MTV's inaugural collaboration with United Way's "Storm Corps" in 2006 to send students to the US's Gulf Coast on an alternative spring break, the program has successfully rolled south each year since to rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, and it's encoring in 2011.
United Way also offers an alternative spring break week elsewhere in the US in 2011 -- ASB volunteers will work in conjunction with local partners to address issues in urban America, like helping to build affordable housing and improving the quality of child care centers. Get the details on how to volunteer on volunteering with United Way for an alternative spring break in 2011. For more information, click here.

Alternative Spring Break Volunteering With United Way

Break Away Alternative Spring Break
Break Away is a good resource on your own campus -- if your college has a chapter, you'll have access to a Break Away database of over 350 nonprofit organizations listing volunteer opportunities with details like sample work projects and housing options.

**Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break Work**

Non-profit housebuilder Habitat For Humanity is reporting that more than 10,000 high school and college students are lining up to swing hammers over spring break in 2011 through Habitat's Collegiate Challenge alternative spring break program -- that's a massive increase in student support over the last five years! In 2006, 1,531 students volunteered to spend spring break volunteering to help rebuild the storm-torn US Gulf Coast with the charitable organization founded in 1976.

**i-to-i Alternative Spring Break Vacations**

With i-to-i volunteer vacations specifically tailored to an alternative spring break, you can conserve a lake in Guatemala or build homes for Honduran families; if you want sun splashed sand, spend time on a Costa Rican beach, working with sea turtles. Through volunteering with a good student travel outfit like i-to-i,where volunteering goes hand-in-hand with travel, you'll see a piece of the planet without having to do much of the planning.
US college students are increasingly seeking out short-term meaningful experiences by lending a helping hand, according to i-to-i Volunteer Travel. The international volunteer vacation provider does more than half of its business each year with student travel and is experiencing 40-50 percent annual growth in numbers of student vacation volunteers.
Volunteering abroad is a fantastic, life-altering experience: the travel, the opportunity to help someone else, the new knowledge about you and your place in the world are invaluable results. Volunteering abroad is a big commitment, though, and the planning and research can seem daunting. Here's a solution: try it out by volunteering abroad for spring break. One week. No big commitment. Perfect. Learn more about i-to-i volunteer vacations for college students

**American Hiking's Volunteer Vacations**

Feel like giving something back to the wild areas that you love? The American Hiking Society has the dream volunteer trip for you -- American Hiking's Volunteer Vacations, where you can rake, shovel, trim, lop, and chop hundreds of trail miles. Trips are far fewer in spring than summer and some trips are already full, but you can also get inspired for hotter months' work down the road:
Learn About Volunteering in US National Parks and Forests

**Master List of College Student Volunteer Opportunities**

We've compiled a constantly changing master list of volunteering opportunities that can easily work for students over spring break -- check out the volunteer's list (and we haven't volunteered with all of these outfits -- ask around a bit before you send *anyone* any money as a down payment):
Master List: College Student Volunteer Opportunities

Don't see what you need? Try Volunteer Match, a service which allows you to enter your zip and see what kind of volunteer opportunities exist near you.

http://studenttravel.about.com/od/springbreakvolunteers/qt/alternate_sprin.htm

# STUDENT CORNER

*What are your spring break plans?*

**"Working in the city at Urban Outfitters and spending time at home in Long Island"**

- Lucia Morales, FMM 2nd semester

**"I'm going to Miami to visit my sister."**

– Margaret Kubizne FMM 1st semester

**"I am relaxing in the city."**

- Kathryn Stec Interior Design 2nd semester

**"I am road tripping to Florida with my friends."**

– Maria Guichon AMC 2nd semester

**"I'm going to Paris right before spring break and then going to Texas to visit my friend."**

- Amena Kazmi, Global Fashion Management Graduate Student

# UPCOMING RESIDENT EVENTS

Make note of the upcoming resident appreciation events, sponsored by residential life that will be taking place in your hall!

**Kaufman Lobby Event**
4/4/11 at 8pm

**Nagler Lobby Event**
4/11/11 at 9:30pm

**Coed Lobby Event**
4/13/11 at 1pm

**Alumni Workroom Event**
4/26/11 at 1pm

# DINING HALL EVENTS

**Caribbean Night**
Tuesday 4/5
Dinner 5-8pm

**Root Beer Float Night**
Wednesday 4/27
Dinner 5-8pm

Check out the Facebook page, "FIT Dining" where you can find out about current promotions the Cafeteria is having!

# RESIDENCE HALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Are you excited for BLOCK PARTY 2011—Cirque du FIT? Save the date! May 7, 2011.**

Come to RHCC's General Meetings to give input and get updates on this FIT tradition! Plus, come voice your questions, comments and concerns about your campus.

**RHCC General Meetings are 10pm in the Cafeteria on:**
**Wednesday, April 6, 2011**
**Wednesday, May 11, 2011**

**Please welcome the 2011-2012 RHCC Executive Board:**

**Johanna Brozinsky, President**
**Jacquelyn Jensen, Vice President**
**Tori Horton, Secretary**
**Kyle Barbuti, Public Relations Chair**
**Nora Alkurabi, Treasurer**
**Hyuna Na, Alumni Hall Representative**
**Olivia Akinwande, Coed Hall Representative**
**Rebecca Cady and Seve Robinson, Kaufman Hall Representatives**
**Elisabeth Greenberg, Nagler Hall Representative**
**Leah Contovasilis and Kaitlin Cremmins, Co-Food Committee Representatives**

Feel free to Email RHCC's Executive Board at: **RHCC_club@fitnyc.edu** or friend us on Facebook: **Residence-Hall Community-Council** to learn how to get involved and ask any questions.