

Repair the World Alternative Breaks

NYC: Brooklyn and Harlem



Repair the World is excited to welcome you to participate in an Alternative Break! Alternative Breaks offer participants a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Jewish service-learning. Through these trips, participants get hands-on service experience and learn how Judaism can offer a framework for repairing the world.

Repair the World is offering Alternative Breaks in **Baltimore, Brooklyn, Detroit, Harlem, Miami, and Pittsburgh**. These are organized experiences, with deep support from Repair the World Fellows.

What we provide:

- Well-designed, meaningful service projects, with the opportunity to serve alongside Repair the World Fellows on their long-term projects
- Close collaboration with fellows on Jewish service-learning pieces of the AB. The educational program will be customized based on the group's needs. For example, Fellows could lead sessions, help arrange for local speakers and more.
- Referrals for local logistics (housing, food, transportation)
- Repair the World swag
- Each AB participant is required to complete and sign the Repair the World Alternative Break Release and Waiver of Liability.

What we don't provide:

- Arranging for travel to city
- Arranging for local logistics. **Groups are responsible for their own housing but should check in with the local city director prior to booking** to confirm that the location is appropriate from a logistical and safety perspective.

Dates: Let us know what works for you! We're open to various times of the year. We typically schedule for 3-5 day-long trips, but can work with your availability.

Group Size:

Minimum of 8 (including staff), maximum 20. We are open to larger groups, but that would take special coordination.

Cost:

- A flat fee of \$1,200 is charged for ABs with up to 15 participants.
- For ABs with more than 15 participants, \$50 is charged for each extra person.
- If you are a Hillel, please reach out to Hillel International for special rates on Repair the World ABs.
- If cost is a barrier, please be in touch with our program managers below who can discuss funding support options.

Questions about hosting an AB in NYC? Contact Kate Thomas, Brooklyn Program Manager, at kate.thomas@weRepair.org, or Liza Freed, Harlem Program Manager, at liza.freed@weRepair.org.

Repair the World NYC Alternative Break

Local Information



What is Repair The World?

Repair the World works to inspire American Jews and their communities to give their time and effort to serve those in need. We aim to make service a defining part of American Jewish life.

Repair the World NYC launched in the fall of 2014 in Brooklyn to tackle pressing local needs by mobilizing communities to volunteer. We enable people to transform their neighborhoods, city, and lives through meaningful service experiences, rooted in Jewish values, history, and heritage. We launched our work in Harlem in 2017. Our team of nine full-time fellows partner with organizations in Central Brooklyn and Harlem to recruit and train the volunteers needed to address education and food justice needs in these neighborhoods.

Learn more about us on our [Website](#) or on [Facebook](#).

Our Locations:

Brooklyn

Crown Heights is a very diverse central Brooklyn community. There is a large population of Hasidic Jews living very close to one of the largest Caribbean populations outside of the West Indies. This neighborhood has a history of racial and religious tensions and, in recent years, has experienced a growing presence of gentrification.

Repair the World Brooklyn's collaborative community storefront space, located at [808 Nostrand Ave](#), has become a hub for service and social justice initiatives.

See [here](#) for [Brooklyn Based](#)'s Neighborhood Guide to Crown Heights.

Harlem

Harlem has historically been a cultural hub for the Black community both in New York and the United States. In the last twenty years Harlem has seen an influx of young Jewish people, many of whom move there for lower rents after college. Repair the World Harlem opened its doors in 2017 to help bridge the space between Harlem's old and new residents.

Housing:

See below for 2 reasonably priced hotels that are proximal to the Repair the World Workshop. With 4 people to a room, the cost per night is about \$50 per participant.

10 min walk, [Best Western Arena Hotel](#)

20 min subway ride, [Holiday Inn Downtown Brooklyn](#)

Some groups choose to rent housing through Airbnb. The RTW staff would be happy to check out any housing that you are considering booking. Please have a member of the RTW staff review the location prior to booking. It is also important to consider transportation. Even though a place is not too far from our workshop, it doesn't mean that it is convenient to get to by public transportation. There are many buses and subway lines that are quite convenient to the workshop. Again, we are happy to consult with you.

Another low-budget option is East Midwood Jewish Center, located four miles south of the Repair the World Workshop. They are a cost-efficient option with large rooms for sleeping (in sleeping bags you bring yourself), access to showers, a place to store and prepare food, as well as a pool and gym. There are also folding chairs and tables for dining or relaxing. Email EdithMaiman@emjc.org, or Randy@emjc.org for more information. They charge approximately \$10 per person per night.

Budgeting:

Travel: varies by location

Housing: \$50pp/day

Food: groceries for breakfast and \$10pp per meal

Transportation: \$31pp for weekly pass

Education/Entertainment: varies by activity (9/11 Memorial, Tenement Museum, Broadway tickets)

Repair the World Fee: \$1,100 (first 12 participants) plus \$50 per additional participant

Dress Code:

In schools/working with children:

- Long pants
- Closed toed shoes
- T-shirts or sweaters (no shoulders or chest showing, no tank tops)
- No ripped/distressed pants

On Farms:

- Closed toed shoes
- Clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty

With Jewish Partners (Walking Kingston Avenue, during Rabbinical learning, at *Shabbat Services*, etc):

- Modest dress
- No knees showing for men or women
- Men: polo, button down, or nice shirt with no logos on it
- Women: tops that cover chest and shoulders, possibly elbows

In soup kitchens and food pantries:

- Closed toed shoes
- Clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty
- T-shirts or sweaters (no shoulders or chest showing, no tank tops)
- Pants or modest shorts

Tips and Tricks for Getting Around NYC:

- Always carry a photo ID, it is illegal to not have one on you.
- Google Maps is a great tool to help you navigate the city.

Alternative Break Sample Itinerary

Repair the World: NYC



Monday: Sample Schedule

Intro to RTW and our Theme: Immediate Need and Systemic Change		
10:00 - 2:00 pm	Introduction to Repair Lunch available from Lula Bagel (sandwiches for \$8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to our service partners.• Embracing productive discomfort• Intro to Central Brooklyn with short walking tour (maps, etc)• Anti oppression training
2:00 - 5:00 pm	Volunteering with Digital Girl, Inc.	Students help facilitate code.org lessons for 4th/5th graders at PS 21 in the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn.
6:00 - 8:00 pm	Debrief Dinner at the Workshop	Dinner at the Workshop from Ali's Trinidad Roti Shop (~\$10 pp). Debrief day 1 and look at week ahead.
8:00 - 10:30 pm	Free Time	Night out at Bedford Hall

Tuesday: Sample Schedule

Addressing Immediate Need: Challenges		
7:30 - 11:15 am	Volunteer at The Campaign Against Hunger	Special Project: Chapel Storage Space Clean Up
11:15 - 12:00 pm	Commute	Groups return to Repair The World Workshop
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch	Lunch with Mark Winston Griffith from Colina Cuervo . Students can pick what they want day of (~\$10pp)
1:45 - 2:30 pm	Food Justice Reflection	Fellows and student leaders facilitate reflection on their day of service.
3:00 - 6:00 pm	Volunteer at Brooklyn Community Services After school Program	Education Justice Service.
6:00 pm	Dinner	On Franklin Avenue or at home.

Wednesday: Sample Schedule

Farming & Manhattan		
9:00 - 11:00 am	Urban Farm Volunteering	Food Justice Volunteering
11:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch	Students eat lunch independent of RTW programming.
2:00 - 5:00pm	Volunteering with Digital Girl, Inc.	Volunteer with Digital Girl, Inc. in Chinatown.
6:00-9:00 pm	Dinner & Free Time	The Pickle Guys: Pickles from an old Eastern European Recipe “just the way mom used to make them” (Est. 2003) 49 Essex Street (\$7/quart). Katz's Delicatessen: The best delicatessen in New York, est. 1888 (\$15-25).
9:15 pm	Comedy Show	Upright Citizens Brigade

Thursday: Sample Schedule

Jewish Take on our Theme		
7:30 – 11:15 am	Volunteering at St. John's Bread & Life	
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch	Pizza from Rosco's! (\$16 per large cheese pie). Student Leaders facilitate discussion on the Crown Heights Riots .
2:00 - 5:00 pm.	Brooklyn Museum	Tour the Brooklyn Museum.
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Walking Tour of Kingston Ave.	Walk around Kingston Avenue to get dinner and bring it back to the Workshop for the next session.
7:00 pm	Dinner	Jon & Faith of BKLYN Base Hillel address service as a Jewish value.

Friday: Sample Schedule

Shabbat		
9:00 - 1:00pm	Volunteer at The Campaign Against Hunger	Food justice Volunteering.
1:30 pm	Coffee	Bring lunch and come together at ReConnect Cafe .
3:00 - 6:00 pm	Volunteering with BCS	Education Justice Volunteering.
7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner	Join the Fellows at the workshop for Shabbat dinner!
8:00pm - 1:30 am	Night Out	1:30am curfew

Saturday: Sample Schedule

Shabbat Explorers		
10:30 - 12:30 pm	Shabbat Explorers	In groups of 3/4/5 (Kol Israel - Orthodox, Altshul - traditional egalitarian, Kolot - reconstructionist).
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Brunch	Regroup and have brunch at the workshop while having a Sikkum.
7:00 pm	Dinner	Have dinner and spend a night out in Williamsburg together.