OVERVIEW

Over Spring Break (March 15-24, 2019), the Office of Student Engagement sent 32 students to four parts of the United States to spend their Spring Break learning about and serving in communities outside Montana for the 23rd annual BreaksAway Spring Break service trips. The service sites included: Lutheran Social Services in Phoenix, AZ; Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, UT; Gila National Forest near Silver City, NM; and Habitat for Humanity in Belgrade/Livingston, MT.

Overall:
• Number of trips: 4
• Number of Students: 32
• Totals hours served: 846
• Total amount of individuals Impacted: over 4,005 and adorable animals
• Total Miles traveled: 6,578

What is the mission of BreaksAway?
To cultivate in MSU students a spirit of community involvement and to nurture service leaders who will give back to our state, nation, and the world. MSU students work together with communities around the U.S. to promote life-long community involvement and critical thinking about our societal challenges and the roles each one of us can play in addressing those challenges.

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Gila National Forest - Silver City, NM
The Gila National Forest was established in 1905, yet part of it; “The Gila Wilderness, was established in 1924 as the first designated wilderness in the country.” The Gila National Forest boasts a rich history of the Mogollon and Apache Indians, Spaniards, Mexicans, ranchers, prospectors and miners.” The group spent the week learning about the wilderness and help install water drainage features near the Catwalk trails, which are popular with the locals.

11 students served 243 hours and impacted over 3000 individuals that utilize the trails!

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest - Phoenix, AZ
LSS-SW is dedicated to helping refugees from troubled nations throughout the world establish new lives in the US, which includes establishing safety, community connections and economic self-reliance. Volunteers participated in a variety of activities, such as helping refugees learn English, taking youth to a museum, and more. The group made a positive impact on refugee individuals and families.

10 students served 270 hours and impacted over 850 individuals!
Best Friends Animal Sanctuary - Kanab, UT
The mission of Best Friends is to end the killing in America’s animal shelters and create a time when there are No More Homeless Pets. They lead by example sharing and promoting new programs and ideas to help animals. The animal sanctuary owns nearly 3,700 acres, and leases another 17,000 acres for their approximate 1,700 animals. Their vision is to create “A better world through kindness to animals”. The group helped care for the animals and make their living environments more comfortable.

5 students served 165 hours and impacted over 850 hundreds of rescue dogs, cats, and more!

Habitat for Humanity - Bozeman, MT
Habitat works toward our vision by building strength, stability and self-reliance in partnership with families in need of decent and affordable housing. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

10 students served 270 hours and impacted over 850 individuals!
The trip was one of the best weeks of my life. I know that sounds like I may be exaggerating but it really was. Everyday was packed with hard work, fun moments, laughter, and chances to learn and grow.

The BreaksAway trip pushed me out of my comfort zone to work with people who have language barriers as well as go on a trip with 8 strangers, who turned out to be such valuable friendships that I will cherish throughout my time at Montana State.

I hadn’t volunteered in awhile before breaksaway as I thought myself too busy. Breaksaway was so eye opening however, and really made me want to help others again, especially because I’ve been lucky enough to have lead a very privileged life. Breaksaway was the perspective on life that I needed after being so worried about school.

The BreaksAway trip was one of the best trips I have ever taken! I met so many people and was able to do something meaningful with my spring break.