

Guide for Inviting Young Adults To Join ALT Year:

Who we're looking for:

ALT Year seeks young adults (age 18-25) that are committed to learn and grow through community engagement and self-motivation. Participants should be prepared to travel (ALT Years usually have 6 travel weeks) and have a desire to know more about the Christian faith. They should appreciate diverse experiences, opinions, and cultures. The ALT Year experience is perfect for meeting young adults in the gaps between experiences. Participants will find structure and support for discerning what's next for them vocationally and how they want to live out their lives as Christian disciples in a changing culture and a changing church. ALT Year also has special positions available for 26-30 year olds and young adults with media production skills.

What should a potential ALT Participant expect?

ALT Year provides a fairly radical change in lifestyle. Participants live simply and cheaply to experience God's abundance through community and increased freedom from consumer-based value systems. Participants share in the cost of the experience by pooling financial resources and also create a shared community covenant for their life together for 9 months (Sept-May).

As a Christian gap year, ALT Year is full-time commitment blending five components: Service, Mentorships, Community Faith Practices (Bible Study, Spiritual Practice, Worship), Common Content around monthly themes (conversation about texts, speakers and visits to community organizations and cultural centers), and Community-Based Focus Areas utilizing local resources, mission opportunities, justice issues, and interfaith and ecumenical partners. ALT Participants will gain a greater self-awareness, lifelong learning practices, leadership skills for fully engaging community, and an ability to see and invite others into God's mission in the world.

Some Possible Transition Points to Talk to a Young Adult about ALT Year

- After high school** to get some "real world" experience and more vocational, spiritual, and personal grounding for what's next (traditional gap year) whether college, work, or some other experience
- After some time at college or work** that wasn't a good fit or created a desire to grow in a new way and/or explore new options. ALT Year offers a chance to assess opportunities and re-launch!
- After community college/associates degree** considering next options for more focused college /university study or before entering the work force
- Those returning from **military service** could use ALT as an opportunity to transition to civilian life.
- After college**, to take a break from academia, but still learning and growing in new ways.
- Those **interested in ministry and mission**, but not ready or interested in seeking out full-time seminary education who desire a more "hands on" community mission and ministry experience.
- Young people that are independent thinkers, don't fit in the box well, yearn to alter the status quo, or are in some other way seen as "divergent"**

List of experiences that may influence a young adult's interest in ALT Year:

Youth Groups	Summer Samplers (Short-term
Mission Trips	Theological/Seminary Training)
Outdoor Ministry (Camping Experiences)	Experience in Service in Community
Campus Ministries	Volunteering at Ministries and Churches
Military Service	Other Service Years or Gap Years
Homeschooling/Alternative Learning	Travel with Other Young Adults

Please visit and share our websites www.altyear.org and www.facebook.com/altyear Contact josh@altyear about applying or with any other questions.

What Do ALT Year Participants Say about the Experience?

This year has given me time to rediscover my gifts, passions, and beliefs through volunteer work, bible study, and mentorships. –Alisha Nelson, Minnesota

It's a chance for you to step back from the way you've been living your life, to really see where you want to be going in life, as well as where God's hand is in it. –Trevor, California

I've learned the importance of "putting myself out there" into community groups and organizations. It's given me new insights and confidence in becoming more involved in my community. –Erik, Washington State

ALT has gotten me out of my comfort zone to try new things. --Mahalah, Ohio

Abundant Life Together has helped me try and figure out who I am as a person, as a believer, and what to do with my life. --Alex, Ohio

ALT has helped me embrace new people with love and compassion. –Damon, Ohio

It's a time for you to recognize the beauty that exists in a community through the people that you interact with and also through the work that you engage in—Amber, Minnesota

It's important for the church to do something like ALT Year because it's a chance to hammer out your own religious identity and spiritual practices that work for you. –Krystal, Michigan

ALT has caused me to think of what I consume and to make choices that are not only more sustainable for the environment but for those who produce the things I consume. –Ian Kruk, New Jersey

Especially if you been in school from kindergarten to high school to college, you lose a piece of yourself when you don't do self-care and take time for you and your passions. –Elizabeth, Ohio

ALT has helped me become a stronger, more independent, and motivated individual who strives to serve the Lord through loving and serving others. -Alex, Michigan

It's a great opportunity to be able step back and cultivate and recognize who you are in this world. –Elisabeth, Minnesota

Coming out of ALT Year I will be in a place where I will be thriving no matter what I do.—Jari, Massachusetts

Questions for a potential "ALTer":

- ❖ Do you love good conversations about important topics?
- ❖ Do you want to travel, but be more than a tourist?
- ❖ Do you care about problems in the world and in your community, and wish more people cared about them too?
- ❖ Do you love to meet new people and hear their stories?
- ❖ Do you want to better understand how God is calling you to live your life and share your gifts and passions?
- ❖ Are you curious to know more about Jesus, the Bible, and other faiths?
- ❖ Can you live around people that are different than you, that challenge your patience and your own ability to change?
- ❖ Do you try to do things differently than the norm? Do you like to try to get people and groups to work