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Spring Break Means Giving Back to These Students

OCEAN – During college spring breaks, most students often go somewhere warm to party. Some, however, like to bag oyster shells, cut brush and paint cabins instead.

A group of students from East Carolina University will be doing those and other community projects in Carteret and Onslow counties next week while their friends are in the tropics.

“The students on this trip are excited about giving back to their communities,” says Brittany Rose of Raleigh who is one of the students. “A week of service and stewardship and helping others gives us the opportunity to meet people and to realize why volunteering and giving back is so important. This experience is something that will stay with us forever.”

This type of “alternate spring break” is becoming more common for college students. The students are asked to volunteer their time and to focus on community service to make a meaningful impact on the community.

Starting on Monday, March 8, the 11 undergraduate students will work with the N.C. Coastal Federation, Hammocks Beach State Park, the Rachel Carson Reserve, the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium and Camp Albemarle until the jobs they are given are done. During this week of service, the student will be working mainly outdoors, no matter the weather, and with minimal outside assistance. The students start the week at the federation’s main office in Ocean.

Along with Rose will be: Kevin Edelen of Clayton; Abigail Jones of Monroe; Daniel Kennington of Monroe; Kelly Lehnies of Rocky Mount; Mike Loeffelman of Columbus, Ohio.; Christine Nthiga of Raleigh; Andrew Norris of Clayton; Katy Ross of Vanceboro; Matthew Tyson of Laurinburg; and Tiffany Vockerodt of Rutherfordton.