

Butler students take alternative spring break

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Emily Longnecker/Eyewitness News

Indianapolis - While many Butler University students hit the beaches for spring break, others hit the road to work - and learn - during their break.

30 students passed up the sun of Florida or the Caribbean to take an alternative spring break in Crossville, Tennessee. They spent four days digging dirt, hauling rocks and building nature trails for eight hours a day on the Cumberland Plateau.

"You wouldn't think, 'Oh, I'm going to spend all day working and sweating all day and come home so ridiculously sore,' but the people make it worth it," said junior Jenny Osborne.

Instead of working on their tan, the students worked in a cave, getting their hands dirty and cleaning out garbage left by others before them.

"I did a lot of sawing," said senior Forrest Heyman.

"I haven't been that sore in a very long time," senior Beth Kristinat said.

"I just loved it," said senior Rebecca Scherpelz. "I came out looking like 'Pig Pen.'"

Some of the students on the trip will graduate from Butler in May. They say the lessons they learned from the spring break experience will be even more important to them in the real world than some of the lessons they learned in the classroom.

"A textbook can only go so far," one student said. "After that, you've got to go live it. You have to apply it to life and really make it your own."

"It reminded me of what's important in life," Osborne said.

Part of that experience was learning who they could be when they put something besides themselves first.

"We left as thirty strangers, and really came back a family," Scherpelz said.

This was the fourth year students from Butler University took part in an Alternative Spring Break.

