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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Flight 93 National Memorial News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students Engage in Leadership Development

Shanksville, PA - The National Parks of Western Pennsylvania hosted nine students from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, from March 10 – 16, 2019, for our second annual Alternative Break Service Program. The theme that this year’s program undertook was “Caring for our Nation’s Parks and Public Lands.” These nine students spent the week working with national and state park site staff and volunteers completing services projects at sites located in the local area. Along with performing direct service, the students also received relevant training and educational presentations in an effort to prepare them for, and give context to, how their work assists the park staff and contributes to the visitor experience.

This year’s program was a one-of-a-kind event exposing these “Alt Breakers” to the benefits of their national and state park sites as well as the important roles park partners play in supporting these special places. This program is also made possible by the nationally recognized organization Break Away. The projects completed were diverse, both in location and category. Students received hands-on experience in the fields of cultural and natural resource management, historical restoration, operational safety, maintenance, and interpretation. These projects were performed at Flight 93 National Memorial, Johnstown Flood National Memorial, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Laurel Hill State Park, and Camp Allegheny.

The students were housed at Camp Allegheny, a camp facility that borders Flight 93 National Memorial. The cost of this program was paid for with funds raised by the Friends of Flight 93, making this one of the only programs of its type in the country in which the host site does not solicit

a fee from the participating university students. Students who completed the program this year are eligible to receive one credit added to their transcripts from University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

About Break Away and Alternative Breaks

Break Away, a national nonprofit organization, promotes the development of quality alternative break programs, through training, assisting, and connecting campuses and communities. An alternative break is a trip where a group of college students engage in direct service, typically for a week. Each trip has a focus on a particular social issue. With the assistance of the host site/community partner, students educate themselves and each other, then do hands-on work with relevant organizations. These experiences challenge them to think critically and compassionately and to understand that there's no such thing as "not my problem." Upon return, participants are empowered to make more informed decisions and to take meaningful action that supports a greater good. Through alternative breaks, we hope to foster the personal growth of contributing members of society.

About The National Parks of Western Pennsylvania

The National Parks of Western Pennsylvania are a group of five National Park Service sites located in southwestern Pennsylvania and managed under one superintendent. The sites include Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site, the site of the first railroad to circumvent the Allegheny Mountains; Flight 93 National Memorial, dedicated to the 40 crew members and passengers of Flight 93 who fought back against their terrorist hijackers on September 11, 2001; Fort Necessity National Battlefield, the site of the opening action of the French and Indian War; Friendship Hill National Historic Site, the site of former Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin's estate; and Johnstown Flood National Memorial, dedicated to the people who lost their lives in and telling the history of the 1889 Johnstown flood.

About the Friends of Flight 93

Established in 2009, the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is the official nonprofit partner of Flight 93 National Memorial. The Friends' aim is to inform, honor and pay tribute to the heroes of Flight 93 by supporting the Memorial with volunteers and resources. The Friends' mission is to focus on awareness, education, volunteer support, preservation and stewardship. To learn more about

the Friends, make a donation to support the memorial, or become a member visit www.Flight93Friends.org.

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