

# Alternative Spring Break

Ashley Bell

Engagement Center

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# EDGE PROJECT

## Project Summary

For my spring break this year I went on a service trip to San Diego. The trip lasted 7 days, from March 11-17, 2012. I went with a group of students from SUU and WSU. We participated in various service projects and learned more about the issues of immigration. The organization we worked with is called Via International. It is a nonprofit organization that works with people on both sides of the U.S./Mexican border.

## Project Highlights

On my last day of the trip, we went out to the border to discuss the issues of immigration. While we were there, the family who takes care of the land across the border came out to herd sheep in their field. They came over and talked to us from across the border. They had two little girls and a boy. It was the oldest girl's 10th birthday. So we sang Happy Birthday to her. That was the highlight of the trip for me. It was a really unifying experience. At that moment I really wanted to take down the border and give her a present.

## From My Journal

March 15, 2012

“This morning I gave sandwiches and coffee to Day Laborers in San Diego. Talking with them was interesting. Many of the people I spoke to came here to the U.S. from Mexico looking for a job. They said that when they got here it is not at all what they were expecting. It would be hard not to have a set job (even a part time job) and to not know if you will have work from day to day.”



Chicano Park is a park in San Diego where murals are painted depicting stories of Mexican Americans. We worked on helping to restore some of the murals. Weather and time fades the colors so we repainted them to help preserve them for 50 more years. In this picture, I repainted the water for the globe and the petals of the rose.



There are two fences along the U.S./Mexican Border. The Primary fence lines the border of Mexico. It is only about 8 feet tall and made from remains from landing zones of the Vietnam War. The Secondary fence lines the U.S border. It is much taller and has wire on the top. In between the two fences is called the Enforcement Zone. This is where the Border Patrol agents patrol. They use vehicles, ATVs, horses, sensors in the ground, and drones in the sky. They also use spotlights and towers to see.