

University of Connecticut
Rock Painting Policy
(Revised Fall 2023)

A. Background

The tradition of rock painting at UConn has had a positive impact on campus. It has served as a vehicle for the free exchange of ideas and opinions while providing an outlet to express school spirit, demonstrate pride in individual organizations, and promote various campus events and activities

This document is intended to detail the policies as well as the spirit associated with using the rock in these ways.

B. Designated Rocks

The official “paintable” rocks located on University of Connecticut Property:

- ‘The Rock’ – across from North Garage
- ‘Towers Rocks’ – bottom of the walkway to Towers behind St. Thomas Aquinas Church
- ‘Buckley/Shippee Rock’ – on the south side of the road leading to the Buckley/Shippee parking lot

The painting of rocks and other forms of University of Connecticut landscape not specifically noted above is prohibited. This includes the rock face on South Eagleville Road, across from Mansfield Apartments.

The rocks referenced above are provided and maintained by the University for the exclusive use of UConn students – including registered student organizations.

C. Who Can Paint Designated Rocks

All actively enrolled UConn students, and by extension, UConn registered student organizations, are allowed to paint the designated rocks within the parameters detailed in this document.

The painting of these rocks by non-UConn students, including but not limited to faculty, staff, administrators, donors, and visitors to campus, is not permitted and may be considered defacement of public property.

D. Rock Painting Expectations

The following are expectations of students and student organizations regarding the painting of the designated rocks:

- The area immediately around the rocks must always be left in a clean condition.
- All materials (e.g. paint, brushes, etc.) and litter from the site must be removed and properly disposed of.
- Nearby objects may not be painted.
- Only water-based latex paint must be used.
- A rock must be completely dry before another student/group may paint over the work.
- The rock must be painted in its entirety; partial painting of the rock is not permitted; tagging letters, names, or symbols over an existing ‘painting’ is prohibited.
- Every UConn student/student organization has the right to paint the rocks without being bothered, harassed or demeaned; students/student organizations engaged in painting the rock must not be interfered with.
- No student(s) shall be required or forced to paint the rock; this is considered a hazing/harming activity.
- There will be no ‘guarding’ of any rock. A student(s) or members of an organization must not be required or forced to ‘guard’ the rock; this is considered a hazing/harming activity.
- Students engaged in painting the rock must be sober. No drinking or drug use is permitted while painting rocks.

- Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated at the rock sites. This includes loud music.

The University community is committed to the free expression of ideas and opinions as well as the respectful manner in which this occurs. Accordingly, students/student organizations choosing to use the rock as a vehicle for expression should do so in a manner consistent with these values.

E. Enforcement

The University will have plaques/signage installed near each of the designated rocks indicating its purpose in support of student expression and referencing relevant expectations.

Enforcement of this policy will be a collaboration between the University of Connecticut, University law enforcement personnel, and the students at the University of Connecticut. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action toward individuals and/or groups.