



# Balloon Release Policy

## Coversheet for Policy Website

<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> (to be completed by Policy Administrator)	Balloon Release (#2004.1)
<i>Purpose of Policy</i>	To provide the university's position about the adverse effects of balloon releases on the environment.
<i>Who Should Know this Policy</i>	Students and VSU employees
<i>Related Documents</i>	N/A
<i>Date Policy First Issued</i>	NEW
<i>Date Policy Last Revised</i>	NEW
<i>Issuing Office</i>	Academic Affairs
<i>Responsible Officer</i>	Chair of the Environmental Issues Committee of the Faculty Senate
<i>Open Comment Period</i>	July 18-August 31, 2018



# Balloon Release Policy

## I. Purpose

While balloon releases are often celebratory in nature for worthy causes, the fallout constitutes litter (an act made illegal by state and local governments). Because balloon pollution is particularly injurious to endangered wildlife such as sea turtles, it poses as more than only a nuisance to the environment, it is a threat to certain species. This policy ensures that VSU does not support nor should be held legally responsible for the acts of those affiliated with VSU by sending a clear message that we prohibit balloon releases.

## II. Policy Statement

The release into the atmosphere of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases (hereafter, "balloon releases"), although often celebrating worthy causes, poses a danger and nuisance to the environment when balloons become entangled in trees and power lines or land on the ground or in waters, often far away. Invariably, the fallout constitutes litter, deposition of which is almost always an act made illegal by state and local governments and can also be a violation of private property rights. Balloon pollution is particularly injurious to wildlife, including marine animals such as endangered sea turtles, which mistake them for natural prey (jellyfish) and ingest them sometimes with lethal effect. Therefore, Valdosta State University (VSU) prohibits balloon releases A) on all university-owned, -leased, or -operated property as well as B) by any student, employee, campus guest, or organization who is representing VSU.