



Balloon Release

1. Policy Statement

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. 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.

2. 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.

3. Affected Stakeholders

Indicate all entities and persons within the university affected by this policy:

- Alumni
- Graduate Students
- Undergraduate Students
- Staff
- Faculty
- Student Employees
- Visitors
- Vendors/Contractors
- Other: _____

4. Exclusions or Exceptions

This policy does not apply to balloons released in indoor, controlled atmospheres (conditioned environments).

5. Policy Attributes

<i>Responsible Office(s)</i>	Academic Affairs, West Hall Suite 1004, 229-333-5950, academicaffairs@valdosta.edu
<i>Approving Officer or Body</i>	University Council
<i>Date Approved</i>	09/19/2018 SGA Resolution #18-11 10/22/2018
<i>Next Review Date</i>	10/30/2020