

## **Order of Saint Benedict Policy**

Endorsed by Saint John's University

Effective May 1, 2018

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### **Saint John's Hammock/Slackline Leave-No-Trace Program**

Welcome to the lands of Saint John's Abbey! The Abbey has owned and cared for this site since the mid-1800s. In keeping with our Benedictine values, the monastic community is pleased to share our home with you, where you may observe nature and be physically and spiritually refreshed. As a guest on this private property, please be respectful of our policies and this land which we consider sacred. Thank you.

#### **Policy Statement**

- The use of hammocks/slacklines is permitted on Saint John's property only by those who have completed hammock/slackline "leave no trace" training from the Outdoor Leadership Center (OLC).
- Those interested in this training program should contact the Outdoor Leadership Center by e-mail (OLC@csbsju.edu).
- After completing the training program and agreeing to the "leave no trace" practices, guests will receive a brightly colored tag to attach to their hammock/slackline (that can be easily identified from a distance by Life Safety or other officials) on Saint John's property.

#### **Additional Policy Statement Information**

##### **Article I.**

##### **1. Tree size**

- 1.1. A hammock/slackline may be used only on trees that are a minimum of 6 inches in diameter at the anchor points, with only one hammock allowed per tree.
- 1.2. To anchor two hammocks from the same tree, the diameter of the tree at the anchor points must be twelve (12) inches or more.
- 1.3. To anchor three or more hammocks on a single tree, the diameter of the tree must exceed 18 inches at the anchor points.
- 1.4. No more than three hammocks may be anchored on one tree.

##### **2. Straps**

- 2.1. Straps used for anchoring hammocks to trees must be a minimum of one (1) inch in width. (The wider the better.)
- 2.2. Straps must be made of nylon or polyester webbing.

- 2.3. No rope may be used for anchoring hammocks because it does not meet the one (1) inch width requirement and cuts into the tree.
- 2.4. No ratcheting straps may be used for anchoring hammocks because they put too much pressure on the growing tissue of the tree.
3. Hanging Height
  - 3.1. Maximum strap mounting height is 8 feet.
  - 3.2. Climbing trees to hang hammocks is not permitted.
  - 3.3. Recommended hanging height: the low point of the hammock should be eighteen (18) inches above the ground.
4. Tree Modification
  - 4.1. No trees may be pruned, trimmed, or modified in any way to accommodate hammocks.
5. Unattended Hammocks
  - 5.1. Hammocks left unattended in any location for ten minutes or more are subject to confiscation by authorized personnel.
    - 5.1.1. Confiscated hammocks may be claimed in the Life Safety Services Office (basement of Tommy Hall).
  - 5.2. All straps and gear must be removed from trees and the area when finished.

## **Article II.**

6. Hammock Hours
  - 6.1. No one may anchor a hammock on campus or in the Saint John's Abbey Arboretum between the following times: 12 a.m. to 6 a.m.
7. Stacking
  - 7.1. Hammocks may not be stacked one on top of another between the same two anchor points.
8. Maximum Occupancy
  - 8.1. Hammock guidelines should be followed for maximum number of people per a hammock.
  - 8.2. Regardless of hammock guidelines, no hammock shall exceed two people at any given time.

## **Article III.**

9. Location
  - 9.1. Hammocks may not be placed along travel routes (i.e., trails, sidewalks, roads, walkways) in any way that disrupts the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
  - 9.2. Saint John's University and Order of Saint Benedict personnel have the authority to ask any hammock users to move their setup to accommodate another activity or event in a given location.
10. Leave No Trace
  - 10.1. Hammock users must follow "leave no trace" guidelines when anchoring hammocks on campus or in the Abbey Arboretum (as demonstrated by the OLC training).
  - 10.2. Hammocks may not be anchored over or around vegetation or other landscaping that could be harmed by trampling or erosion.
11. Other Anchors
  - 11.1. Hammocks may not be anchored on buildings, fences, or other manufactured structures that are not specifically designated as hammock anchor points.

11.2. Hammocks may not be anchored inside any building.

**Article IV.**

**12. Slacklines**

12.1. All hammock policies must be followed.

12.2. Each tree must be a minimum of twelve (12) inches in diameter at the anchor points with only one slackline allowed per tree.

12.3. Abrasion protection/padding must be used.

12.3.1 Abrasion protection/padding must be three times the width of the slackline straps.

**Reasons for Policy**

**Private Property:**

The trees of the inner campus and the Abbey Arboretum are a valuable resource to be respected. This policy is in place to protect these resources from harm caused by careless hammocking/slacklining.

**Liability:**

All land at Saint John's is private property, not a public park. All use of Abbey land and lakeshore is at the individual's own risk.

**Other options:**

There are many nearby parks and private lands for activities not allowed at Saint John's.

**Special Situations**

The Abbey Land Manager and/or Life Safety Director may approve exemptions.

**Rates, Fees, or Penalties**

- Violators of any of these rules may lose their OLC hammock certification, and they will lose the privilege of utilizing hammocks/slacklines at Saint John's.
- Hammocks/slacklines left unattended in any location for ten minutes or more may be confiscated by authorized personnel.

**Contacts**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Policy Enforcement	Life Safety Services	320-363-2144	<a href="mailto:LSaftey@csbsju.edu">LSaftey@csbsju.edu</a>
Hammock/slackline “leave no trace” training/certification	Outdoor Leadership Center	320-363-3435	<a href="mailto:OLC@csbsju.edu">OLC@csbsju.edu</a>
Policy Questions	Abbey Land Manager	320-363-3163	<a href="mailto:Arboretum@csbsju.edu">Arboretum@csbsju.edu</a>
Policy Modifications	Abbey Forest & Lands Committee	320-363-3163	<a href="mailto:Arboretum@csbsju.edu">Arboretum@csbsju.edu</a>
Corporate Responsibility	Saint John’s Abbey Treasurer	320-363-3167	<a href="mailto:sjainfo@osb.org">sjainfo@osb.org</a>

<b>Definitions</b>
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Land includes any and all land owned and controlled by Saint John’s Abbey in Minnesota. Order of Saint Benedict, Saint John’s Abbey, Saint John’s, or Abbey all refer to the monastic community legally named Order of Saint Benedict.

<b>Policy History</b>
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**Approved by:**

Saint John’s Abbey Treasurer on  
Order of Saint Benedict Forest and Lands Committee on  
Order of Saint Benedict Senior Council on

- Saint John’s Abbey owns and controls the land and retains the right to modify its policies at any time. Minor amendments and corrections endorsed by the Abbey Forest and Lands Committee and approved by the Abbey Treasurer may be made as needed.
- Some version of a “Land Use and Restrictions” has been in place for decades.