

Pebbles of Positivity: The Kindness Rock Painting at Pace University



Students of Pace University gather together to paint rocks located in Kessel Student Center Main Lobby on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 by Charlotte LoCicero

By: Charlotte LoCicero | March 12, 2025

PLEASANTVILLE, N.Y. — Pace University students gathered at the Kessel Student Center Main Lobby on March 12, for a scheduled [Kindness Rock Painting](#) event.

Despite the last-minute adjustment, students took part in the activity, embracing the opportunity to express their creativity and connect with the community. The event provided an opportunity for students to express themselves artistically while spreading messages of positivity and kindness through painted rocks.

Organizers did not immediately provide a reason for the schedule change.

Sara Hukkanen, dean for students coordinator for Student Affairs, and Alerie Tirsch, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, were present at the event, actively encouraging students to participate in the painting activity.

“Rocks is part of the first-gen [program](#) and it's really just a way for people to come together in community, get to know other first-gen students or just other students in general, and just have a positive impact on people,” stated Tirsch.

The Kindness Rock Painting event, now in its second year at Pace University, originated from a personal hobby. One of the organizers, who has been painting rocks for eight years, initially started the activity with friends and family, recognizing its simplicity and ability to bring joy to others.

“I would do it with some friends and my kids at home, and everyone just really enjoyed it, so just something that's fun, easy, and brings a lot of joy,” states Hukkanen.

Described as a low-pressure, creative wellness activity, the event allows participants to paint freely, keep their creations, or gift them to others. Organizers emphasized its laid-back nature, making it an accessible and enjoyable way for students to unwind and connect. The rocks used for the event were sourced from Home Depot.



Student of Pace University paints rock using a marker located in Kessel Student Center Main Lobby on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 by Charlotte LoCicero

Only a few students attended the rock painting event, including a student who, with no classes on Wednesdays, was looking for a fun activity to take part in.

“I have no classes on Wednesday's, so I try to go to as many events as possible. I love events,” Skyler Flynn.

Skyler Flynn describes placing their painted rock on campus, hoping to catch the attention of passersby and brighten someone's day.

“I was gonna put it somewhere on campus, so people, like, while they're walking, they like to see it and they're like, oh, look. paint a rock. I don't know. try to brighten someone's day, maybe,” said Flynn.

The Kindness Rock Painting event is held on the first Tuesday of every month in the back corner of the Kessel Student Center Main Lobby. Students can find details about upcoming events by checking the flyers posted around campus.