

HAMMOCK AND SLACKLINE POLICY

Campus trees are a valuable resource and the University of Michigan has received national recognition as a Tree Campus USA institution from the Arbor Day Foundation. Use of hammocks/slacklines on campus has wellness and mental health benefits so they are allowed on the Ann Arbor campus. The following requirements are meant to ensure the safe, appropriate and temporary use of hammocks/slacklines as well as preserve tree health on campus. Hammocks/slacklines are for short-term use and those left up overnight will be confiscated and disposed of.

1. Tree Size

- 1.1. A single hammock may be used only on trees that are a minimum of six (6) inches in diameter at the anchor points.
- 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 hammocks on a single tree, the diameter of the tree must exceed eighteen (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 could result in damage to 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 eight (8) feet.
- 3.2. Climbing trees to hang hammocks is not permitted.
- 3.3. Recommended hanging height: the low point of an occupied hammock should be eighteen (18) inches above the ground.

4. Tree Modification

- 4.1. No trees may be pruned, trimmed, or modified to accommodate hammocks.

5. Unattended Hammocks

- 5.1. Hammocks left unattended in any location for thirty minutes or more are subject to confiscation by authorized personnel.

5.2. When finished, all straps and gear must be removed from trees and the area.

6. Hammock Hours

6.1. No one may anchor a hammock on campus between sunset and sunrise.

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. No hammock shall exceed two people at any time.

9. Location

9.1. Hammocks may not be placed across travel routes (e.g. sidewalks, roads, walkways) in any way that disrupts the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

9.2. Hammocks may not be anchored over or around vegetation or other landscaping that could be harmed by trampling or erosion.

9.3. University of Michigan personnel have the authority to direct any hammock users to move their setup to accommodate another activity or event in a given location.

10. Other Anchors

10.1. Hammocks may only be anchored to trees as described above. No hammocks shall be anchored on buildings, light poles, fences, or other manufactured structures that are not specifically designated as hammock anchor points.

10.2. Hammocks may not be anchored inside any building.

11. Slacklines

11.1. All hammock policies must be followed.

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

11.3. Abrasion protection/padding must be used.

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

11.5. Maximum strap mounting height is four (4) feet above the ground.