

COLEBROOK NH ROCKS! Find a rock! Paint a rock! Hide a Rock!

HINTS

INSTRUCTIONS

MATERIALS

WHERE TO HIDE (IMPORTANT!)

In conjunction with the Colebrook Public Library summer reading program: "Build a Better World" we joined in a project to paint rocks, based upon ideas from The Kindness Rocks Project, and Northeast Ohio Rocks, as seen on the CBS Evening News. Kindness builds a better world, and these rocks are meant to pass a random act of kindness on to people who find them all over the world. The family time and fresh air is a bonus.

About those rocks..... GUIDELINES

Step #1 Find a rock! Flat & smooth rocks work best, smaller than the palm of an adult hand.

Step #2 Wash, scrub and dry the rock. Do big batches & dry in the sun. It is quick!

Step #3 Print and attach the labels identifying your rock as part of ColebrookNHRocks. The labels are located online at the Colebrook Public Library website, or you can get a small quantity at the library. Ask and we'll email it to you! Use Outdoor Mod Podge to decoupage the label to the back of the rock. Let dry. I use a 1" sponge brush. We have 2 sizes of labels, one for small rocks one for large rocks.

Step #3 Paint the rock! Use acrylic paints, paint markers, permanent markers, paint pens, paint brushes, then a clear sealant such as Mod Podge with a brush, or Rustoleum or Krylon clear sealant. Always use paints and sealants in ventilated areas in accordance with the manufacturer safety instructions.

Optional: dotting tools that cosmetologists use to do manicure/fingernail art! They are AWESOME and they are how you can fill tiny spaces and do cool shapes. I call them "dotting tools" and they can be found on Amazon by searching for nail art & dotting pens, they are sold in sets of 5 or so with dual ends for less than \$5. Q Tips and the back of a paintbrush will also make a dot.

Using Acrylic paints works well, and easy clean up. Prices range from Apple Barrel brand ranging from .50 cents to \$2.00 for a bottle. Just a few colors, or a paint set under \$10 will last you a LONG time. Please visit Lin Jo's, Hicks Hardware, Ducret's and any local provider for paints and supplies whenever possible.

Using markers is fun to write on the rocks. There are 2 schools of thought on this:

1. Sharpies- they work well but will RUN if you spray them with a spray sealant. Oh no! You have worked so hard on your artwork! If you DO use Sharpies or markers, let them dry for a FULL DAY then 1) use Mod Podge applied with a paint brush to seal your artwork first then 2) spray seal them after the Mod Podge layer is dry.
2. Paint pens. We recommend Uni-Posca paint pens. I had to go to Amazon for mine. They are roughly \$20 for a set of 15 colors which makes them pricey but they last a long time. White and black pens will be the most frequent ones you use and can be purchased separately. When using the Uni-Posca brand paint pens, these rarely run, you can just spray your art directly with a

sealant. I have heard that Prisma Color Premier pens work well too, though I have not tried them. Do not apply your pens to wet paint! Wait in between layers. So hard but worth it for long pen life!

3. Seal your rock: Seal your rock from the elements! Use either Outdoor Mod Podge, or any clear spray sealant available at paint stores or craft stores. I use a Mod Podge spray product but Krylon or any sealant will work. If you are using a spray you must spray them under adult supervision, OUTDOORS. There are low odor sealants but always apply outdoors using all safety precautions. Once again, if you do use Sharpies or markers, you will have better luck sealing them with the Outdoor ModPodge first, NOT a spray sealant. You have worked so hard on your artwork, you don't want it to run!

Hide your rock, or give it away! You have done way more than put a paint on a rock, you are changing a moment in someone's day when they find your treasure!

The fine print: a few rules! **Do not hide rocks or enter on private property - no water fixtures, mailboxes, etc.

**** PLEASE do not leave rocks on Federal property, in the Presidential Mountains, White Mtn. National Forest, or anywhere else with a Leave No Trace policy. Leave No Trace is an important guideline to follow in those areas and it is up to the hiker and user to know the rules of the Forests. Leave No Trace is important to many users of those areas and they thank you for your attention to this. There are many places rocks are welcome; we can both have fun and respect LNT ethics. Thank you. Part of kindness is understanding, and in particular understanding where rocks are welcome and where they are not, and respecting why.**

* Be respectful, ask before you leave a rock at a business. The library is always rock friendly!

* Be safe: ask yourself: "Would I like my OWN child finding a rock there?"* (i.e. having to climb up a tree to find one, etc.)

* Don't leave rocks on grass where a lawn mower will be coming, it could damage the lawn mower blades or hurt someone standing nearby if a rock comes flying out.

* Finding rocks is exciting for children, but please please please only pick up one rock at a time, then hide it, and pick up another. If your child picks up 10 rocks at a time that really diminishes the experience for others finding. Enjoy the moments of positivity, one at a time. It is not a collecting contest; it is about taking the hard work of an artist and moving it along the kindness journey.

*NO HOT TOPICS: Use your messaging to Build a Better World and make people smile. No rock should contain any insulting picture or language. Please do not paint rocks regarding political issues, hot topic issues or issues revolving around adult concerns. Our only platform is sharing kindness. The rocks are not bumper stickers. They don't have an agenda other than sharing kindness and brightening someone's day. Kindness is meant for everyone; anyone.

Any rock shared on the Colebrook NH Rocks page painted with obscenities, racism, or nudity will be deleted. Keep it rated "G" for everyone. Any rock not following group rules will be deleted.

Have fun!! Hide the rock in various locations to brighten someone's day. We have several bike and hiking trails, parks and plenty of other places to leave a little something to brighten someone's day. Yes you can hid them out of town and out of state!

The sky is the limit on design! Google "painted rock," cats, or dogs, or trees, or beach and you will see what others are doing. I was inspired by Facebook Groups called Northeast Ohio Rocks, Ohio Rocks Rule, and The Kindness Rocks Project. Check them out for great ideas! I thank them for their inspiration and hard work, to kick off such an exciting and inexpensive activity that has been so meaningful. Happy Rocking.

DON'T FORGET TO SHARE ANY ROCKS YOU FIND TO THE COLEBROOK NH ROCKS FACEBOOK PAGE!
Show the world Colebrook NH Rocks, and build a better world! The North Country is an AWESOME place!