ROUNDTABLE

What's the best way to use a flex pass?



ILLUSTRATION BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE ARTSIT EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Flex passes; we all know and love them. Some may even call them the last true "combo" or "value" menu items in America. With a simple tap (or more recently, a swipe) of your One Card, a delicious, filling meal can be all yours.

Keep reading to see what the Life section says is the best flex pass option at the University of Connecticut.

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By far, my favorite way to use a flex pass is for a meal at Bookworms. I like feeling like I'm getting more out of using a flex pass than I would by using points, so the fact that I get three items for just one swipe instantly sells me. I usually grab some sort of wrap; the lemon basil chicken wrap is my favorite, even though its shade of green looks dubious. My chip of choice is Flamin' Hot Cheetos, and I top it all off with a cold regular Coke.

Honestly, though, my true favorite way to use a flex pass is to swipe my family and friends into the dining hall. As hit-or-miss as the dining hall can be sometimes, I enjoy taking visitors to give them a literal taste of what my daily life looks like here, and it's always a good time.

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It's a competition for second place since swiping Ayyan into a dining hall is number one.

In all seriousness, The Coop is the best bang for your buck using a flex pass. It is very filling and can be too much sometimes. With that said, I'm announcing my retirement from The Coop Fan Club. If I wanted to have the life sucked out of me, I'd eat at The Coop.

The best use of a flex pass is SAMBAZON. Getting an acai bowl from there is the most comforting thing on campus. I could probably use all 75 swipes in one week if I wanted to. While it sounds like robbery, the flex pass bowl with strawberries and no granola is a heart condition staple.

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There's no better way to use a flex pass than buying chicken tenders, fries and a lemonade from The Coop. That's what I have every Friday, and let me tell you, that meal slaps. Every time I have it, the chicken tenders' crispiness enriches my taste buds while the fries and lemonade add extra saltiness and sweetness. Because of that, I highly recommend using some of your flex passes at The Coop. Trust me. You won't regret it.

Another excellent way to use a flex pass is getting a sandwich and fruit for lunch at Bookworms or Crossroads. This is a wonderful way to save time, especially if you have back-to-back classes or a lot of homework. While you won't be able to make your own custom sandwiches like at the dining halls, you'll at least have a lovely meal to give you some energy for the rest of the day.

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I used to think that a meal at The Coop was the best way to use a flex pass, but lately I have been spending all of mine at the various cafes on campus.

At The Beanery, I like to spend a flex pass on chips, a Diet Coke and a Cali Chicken Sandwich, a sumptuous blend of chicken, bacon, cheese and tomatoes on a toasted baguette. The sandwich is surprisingly sophisticated for being from a campus cafe, and I enjoy this combination for lunch.

I am also a big fan of the white mac and cheese from Bookworms, which I get with Flamin' Hot Cheetos and a soda. I like to put the Hot Cheetos in the mac and cheese to add a slight kick to the meal. I also like their breakfast sandwiches, enjoying them with a hot hazelnut-blend coffee and saving the chips for later.

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The absolute best way to use a flex pass is to swipe me (or anyone) into a dining hall. Now that I live off-campus, I miss the easy access I used to have with my meal plan; I felt like I had the whole world at my fingertips — if the whole world was UConn's eight dining halls and their array of mediocre to decent food.

As someone who had the custom plan and used half of their 75 flex passes on other people, it feels weird to be on the other side begging for swipes. There was a lady at Towers who got so used to me swiping in friends for lunch she would ask, "how many this time?" I regret telling you this, but the roles have reversed — I'm the one getting swiped in today.

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A flex pass is never wasted when used for a small pink drink smoothie at Mango.

The pink drink, a perfect blend of strawberries, coconut milk and Greek yogurt, easily takes the trophy for Mango's best smoothie. Though I respect those who defend tropical mango and mango peach, no flavor will ever dethrone the pink drink.

Side note: do not be fooled by chocolate peanut butter protein; that is a waste, and I'm convinced the only people who like it are gym bros trying to increase their protein intake.

The pink drink is best had after a morning workout to accompany breakfast or following an afternoon gym sesh to hold you over until dinner. Though I have to say, in the grand scheme of all things food, a flex pass is virtually useless; but the pink drink remains one of my favorite post-workout delicacies.

IDEAS TO DECORATE YOUR YARD FOR HALLOWEEN ON A BUDGET

by Thaddeus Sawyer
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Halloween in college is a subtly limited affair for some.

Unlimited free candy is no longer on the horizon, and decorating is often limited to hanging a wreath made of fake decaying leaves or a printed picture of a ghost on the door of your dorm room.

While "Halloweekend" for many means dressing up in a different costume every night and going out, that experience isn't universally appealing. Instead, Halloween may look like staying inside your dorm, eating Pillsbury sugar cookies and watching horror films until 3 a.m., at which point you are somehow simultaneously too tired to stay awake and too spooked to turn the lights off.

However, as you get older and become an upperclassman, a new opportunity may be unlocked. For those who move off campus, especially into a house, the newfound freedom of decorating your front lawn enters the picture. Once the trick-or-treater, you are now the one handing out candy. Why not embrace this change and get in the spirit, even if it is on a budget.

Here are some tried-and-true methods of decorating your yard for Halloween without breaking the bank.

Taking a trip to the local dollar store is a fantastic first step. Covering anything in fake cobwebs is a great way to decorate a lot of space without much effort. Foam tombstones look perfectly realistic in the dark, and an entire graveyard can be made for less than $10. Cheap plastic fencing with skulls or spiders molded into the design to surround your graves is usually also available to take your graveyard to the next level.

If you are a real stickler for details, take a few dying flowers from whatever potted plant your parents left you when you moved in or the one that your roommate swore they'd keep alive, and place them in front of the graves.

Next, you'll want to make sure there are plenty of light sources to make your display visible. While darkness can enhance some features, such as the foam graveyard, it becomes your enemy if no one can see your creativity. Small strobe lights can be bought for surprisingly cheap at places like Spirit Halloween and can add a certain professional quality to your work.

Other small details that can make your yard feel less like a patch of grass in front of a residential house and more like a maze at Six Flags include adding any sort of store-bought mannequin that includes a feature like light-up eyes or playing Halloween music in the background.

If you are looking to spend as little money as possible, look no further than the back of your closet. Any old clothes that you don't plan on wearing again can be stuffed with leaves to create a makeshift dummy. Slap a cheap plastic skeleton head or rubber mask on top, and you have the centerpiece of your display.

As a final piece of advice, don't forget to appeal to all audiences. While plastic rats and fabric spiders are definitely chilling to the right age group, it's important to remember that children of all ages will see your display. Even if you are going for a scarier design, there is nothing wrong with adding a few happier-looking scarecrows or funnier gags instead of scary ones. Don't abandon the smiling jack-o'-lantern in the name of horror, as in the end, decorating is supposed to be fun.

Besides, we all know it's really still about the free candy.



A house decked out for trick-or-treating with a variety of Halloween decorations. Covering anything in fake cobwebs is a great way to decorate for Halloween that takes up a lot of space without much effort.

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Jack-o'-lanterns decorate a porch step. Carved pumpkins are the perfect amount of spooky and fun for young kids.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVELY HARBOR/@LOVELY.HARBOR ON INSTAGRAM

SUBOG Weekly Events:

October 12th – October 18th

Mason Jar Sundae – 10.13 @ 2 pm on the SU Mall

Comedy Magic Show – 10.14 @ 7:30 pm in the SU Theater

Capture the Flag – 10.15 @ 7:00 pm on Fairfield Way

Any questions? Email subog@uconn.edu and check out @subogatuconn on Instagram for updates on our events!