

GHOST RANCH



Welcome

Welding for Women

with Connie B. Burkhart

G230931

September 17-23, 2023

Hello and welcome to Welding for Women during Ghost Ranch Master's Week! This is the second year this workshop has been offered and it promises to be another week filled with art, laughter and the space to create from the heart. I have led welding at Ghost Ranch for over 20 years and am pleased to now combine this wonderful art form with mindful creation using stories and experiences that feed the soul.

The first morning of class you will learn the basics of oxy/acetylene welding from the ground up as we walk through tank safety and welding procedures. You will be lighting your torch by lunch the first day, and then the real fun will begin!

Class is held in Longhouse by the Kitchen Mesa and Box Canyon trailhead. Our daily schedule will consist of two welding sessions - 9am to noon & 1:30 to 4:30. Evenings are free for you to enjoy the ranch. Afternoon sessions are flexible for those who would like to book a tour or be away for a time if desired.

It is very important to dress appropriately for class. Long cotton pants are best (leggings are not suitable) and closed toe (leather) footwear to protect your legs and feet from sparks and molten metal are crucial. T-Shirts are OK but having a long sleeve shirt to wear at times is a good idea if sparks fly at the plasma cutter, cutting torch or grinding wheel. A hat or bandana and tying your hair back helps keep you safe too. Also, I highly recommend that you purchase lightweight leather gloves that fit your hands snugly; deerskin or cowhide garden gloves work great. (I buy mine at a home improvement store or online). We do have heavy weight gloves for you to use for more intense spark throwing tools if needed. Please don't wear anything you don't want damaged- holes or stains are common. People will admire your outfit at every meal!

We provide eye protection, aprons, all the tools, scrap metal and other non-metal items that you will need during class. Of course, you are welcome to bring some of your own things that to use as a design element on your pieces. We will be working on some 'guardian' designs that could call for memorable or 'one-of-a-kind' things to make it yours. I use a variety of items like old jewelry, feathers, buttons, and beads to finish a piece after the welding is done. A supply of 'fun' things will be available for class so don't feel you need to figure it all out before you come.

EDUCATION AND RETREAT CENTER

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Speaking of metal, we ALWAYS accept metal donations to our 'treasure pile'. If you bring some scrap metal and want to leave something behind for our family of Ghost Ranch welders that's great. Lots of folks have the 'welding bug' bite them and they return year after year. As for bugs, every year is different, but its a good idea to bring bug repellent;swatting a mosquito while holding a lit torch does not usually end well for the insect, you, or the welder next to you. Our last day of class we work from 9 a.m. to just after lunch as you finish up those last-minute welds then clean up your work space in Longhouse. After the area is cleaned, we will transport and set up our creations for the final Art Show. This show is an anticipated event to celebrate the week's work. Please plan on taking your creations with you after the art show ends in the evening (unless you sell your piece to an admirer)!

I anxiously await your arrival at Ghost Ranch and look forward to seeing you after the ranch orientation(6:30pm after dinner on the day you arrive). Our meeting that night will be brief so you can get some rest, drink more water, and know what to prepare for the coming day when we gather at 9am in Longhouse. Travel safely and get ready for a great experience surrounded by the incredible inspiring beauty of Ghost Ranch.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional information you may need regarding the workshop.

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