



Western Adornments: Bolos and Statement Rings

G26050203

with Brandon Ruppert

May 13-17, 2026

Welcome Workshop Participants,

In this hands-on silversmithing class you will learn how to fabricate a bolo tie and or a statement ring. Focus will be on silversmithing techniques that include, sawing, filing, soldering, forming, finishing and stone setting as well as design, function and personal expression. Instruction will include step-by-step demonstrations. The class is open to students who are at least 16 years old, with or without silversmithing experience.

We are excited to offer this class in conjunction with the Bluegrass Festival! The fully equipped Ghost Ranch Silversmith Studio provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn the skills and techniques of silver jewelry making in a beautiful location with a long history in the creative arts. Ghost Ranch is a place of beauty and serenity that nurtures the creative spirit in everyone it touches.

Schedule: Class will begin with an orientation to the studio after dinner Wednesday evening, May 13th, followed by in-studio work on May 14-15 and part of May 16th. Daily instruction and studio work will take place from



9am-12pm and 1pm-4:00pm on each in-studio day. For those who are interested, the studio may be open in the late afternoon and evening, though participation in Ghost Ranch and Bluegrass Festival activities is highly encouraged. Ghost Ranch is a wonderful place to visit with many things to do and many places to explore! A final ranch-wide Bluegrass Concert and Art Show will take place on Saturday evening, May 16th.

Supply List: The studio is fully equipped with all the needed tools, supplies and equipment necessary to complete your projects. Students may bring their own hand-tools, stones, and/or silver supplies if they wish, but please make sure tools are labeled with your name. Students should also bring clothing that can get dirty and closed-toe shoes for safety.

- Students will need to purchase any silver used in the class from Ghost Ranch if they don't bring their own materials. We will have all the needed silver available for purchase at the studio.
- Students should expect to spend between \$150 - \$300+ on silver for the class, unless supplies are brought from home – this cost is NOT included in the class fee and will be paid at the end of class. Cash or Check paid directly to Ghost Ranch is preferred.
- We occasionally have higher quality stones such as turquoise and hand braided leather cord for bolos available for purchase.

Recommended Resources: The Ghost Ranch Silver Studio library holds many educational and inspirational books on silver jewelry making. If you'd like to explore ahead of class, two excellent books to look for are:

[The Complete Metalsmith](#) by Tim McCreight , and [Native American Bolo Ties: Vintage and Contemporary Artistry](#) by Diana F. Pardue and Norman L. Sandfield.



Instructor: Brandon Ruppert works in metal and wood materials. Brandon has always been a maker and builder of things. Brandon attended the Krenov School of Fine Woodworking as a young adult where he developed an eye for craftsmanship, balance in design, and the method of building with raw materials, often with self-made tools. In 2021 Brandon attended the silversmithing class taught by Jamie Halpern at Ghost Ranch and has found it to be a wonderful creative outlet. Brandon can be reached by email at brandonsruppert@gmail.com