



Intro to Southwest Silversmithing

G26070402

with Jamie Halpern & Patte Ranney

July 26 – August 1, 2026

Welcome!

Course Overview: This is a hands-on course in learning the basics of silver jewelry-making and stone-setting. Techniques are demonstrated but learning comes from actually doing the work. Problem solving is a significant part of this learning process. Studio work will be supplemented by demonstrations and discussions and perhaps some guest instructors. Students will learn to safely use the basic tools of silversmith work. Students will leave with multiple pieces of wearable jewelry art and a discovery of their own creative potential!

We are very excited to have the opportunity to introduce students to southwest-style silversmithing. The fully-equipped Ghost Ranch Silversmith Studio provides a wonderful opportunity for students to learn the basic 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.

General Workshop Hours: The class schedule is 9–noon and 1–3:30. For those who are interested, the studio will also be open in the late afternoon and evenings, though participation in other Ghost Ranch activities is also encouraged. Ghost Ranch is a wonderful place to visit with many things to do and many places to explore!



Supply List: The Ghost Ranch silversmith studio is fully equipped with all the tools, supplies and equipment needed for class. Students may bring their own hand tools, stones and/or silver supplies if they have them, but please make sure any tools are labeled with the student's name. Students will need to purchase the silver they use in the class if they do not bring their own supplies; Ghost Ranch has all the needed silver available for purchase at the studio. Sometimes, turquoise is also available for purchase. Brass and copper are also available at the studio for use in student projects. **PLEASE NOTE: Students should expect to spend between \$100 - \$300 on silver per week –this cost is NOT included in the class fee. Payments for silver purchased will be made to Ghost Ranch at the end of the week; cash or checks are the preferred method of payment.**

Students should also bring clothing that can get dirty and closed-toe shoes for safety.

Recommended Resources: There are many books available in the library or on-line that illustrate southwest-style jewelry and jewelry construction techniques. Two excellent books to look for are:

The Complete Metalsmith by Tim McCreight , and **Indian Jewelry Making** by Oscar T. Branson

Instructor Contact Information: Jamie Halpern is a silversmith and lapidary artist and jewelry instructor and lead for the Ghost Ranch silversmithing program. Patte Ranney, another accomplished silversmith and Ghost Ranch alumni, will be co-teaching the class with Jamie. If you have any questions, you are welcome to e-mail Jamie at finnpern@gmail.com