



Women in Silver

G26090304

with Sandy Binion and Kathy Shann

September 20–October 3, 2026

Welcome to Ghost Ranch!

Hi there,

I'm so glad you'll be joining us for Women in Silver, running September 20 – October 3, 2026. This is your time to step away from the usual daily demands—no cooking, no driving, no endless phone calls—and give yourself the gift of uninterrupted focus in the studio.

The Ghost Ranch Silversmithing Studio isn't fancy or high-tech, but it's full of history and heart. Past participants often describe it as a creative think tank, a place where ideas flow and friendships form. You'll find yourself surrounded by women who are just as excited as you are to dive into the work, and together we'll tackle challenges that will stretch your skills and spark new inspiration.

If you've never been to the ranch before, know that it's tucked away in a stunning but somewhat secluded spot. The nearest city is about 45 minutes away, and the town of Abiquiu—about 20 minutes down the road—has a few essentials like a Dollar Store, a General Store, a Post Office, and two



restaurants. Once you settle in, you may not want to leave, but it's good to be prepared for the quiet and isolation that make this place so special.

Workshop Hours

We'll meet for class from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM, break for lunch, and back for 1:00 PM–5:30 PM. The studio is also available in the evenings, so if you're eager to keep working, you'll have plenty of time. Outside of class, you're welcome to explore the ranch—hikes, tours, or simply soaking in the beauty. If folks are interested, we can also plan some social time or group activities.

Supplies

There's no official supply list since you'll be working on your own designs. The studio has everything you'll need, but if you have favorite tools, feel free to bring them or ship them ahead. Keep in mind that shared tools are well-loved and well-used.

Your tuition covers access to the studio, copper and brass sheet materials, and slab rocks. Sterling silver and turquoise are available for purchase onsite, and most people spend \$100–\$300 on silver during the week (not included in tuition). The price of silver is set by the ranch and calculated by current pricing. Payment is made by cash or check at the end of the session.

Safety & Comfort

- Closed-toe shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty are a must.
- Aprons, masks, and goggles are available in the studio.
- Weather can be unpredictable—layers will keep you comfortable.



- The studio is a bit of a walk from housing and the dining hall. If mobility is a concern, consider bringing a car or asking about golf cart rentals. Campground folks expect a longer walk, but it's manageable.

Recommended Reading

If you'd like to dive deeper into Southwestern-style jewelry and silversmithing, I recommend:

- The Complete Metalsmith by Tim McCreight
- Indian Jewelry Making by Oscar T. Branson

Instructors

You'll be working with me, Sandy Binion, along with Kathy Shann—we're both silversmiths and proud Ghost Ranch alumnae. If you have questions before the course begins, you can reach me at sandybinion@gmail.com.

See you soon!

Sandy