



Southwest Native Traditions in Metalsmithing

G26080505

with Steve & Cree LaRance

August 30–September 6, 2026

WELCOME!

This is a hands-on course in learning the basics of Southwest Native Traditions in Metalsmithing. 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 and provide experienced silversmiths with supported studio time. 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 Monday through Friday. For those who are interested, the studio will also be open in the late afternoon and evening, 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!

As part of this unique workshop, class members will also participate in the special event featuring noted author Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*. Dr. Kimmerer will be giving two talks (10:00 AM: *The Serviceberry* & 1:30 PM: *Moving Beyond Gratitude*), Saturday September 5th followed by a book signing and final reception at 7:00 PM.

Supply List: The studio is fully equipped with all the needed tools, supplies and equipment. 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 and some special rocks they use in the class if they do not bring their own supplies; Ghost Ranch has all the needed metals available for purchase at the studio. PLEASE NOTE: Students should expect to spend between \$200-\$400 or more on silver purchases, unless your own silver is brought from home. Clean silver scraps may be brought to class for casting....Silver costs are NOT included in the class tuition. Cash or checks are the preferred payment method for these materials.



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