



## **Welding for Women** **G220936** Connie B. Burkhart

September 18 - 24, 2022

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

The day after you arrive at the ranch 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, so get ready for the fun to begin!

We will hold class in Longhouse by the Kitchen Mesa and Box Canyon trailhead. Our daily schedule will have 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 top on the list. T-Shirts are OK and having a long sleeve shirt to wear at times is a good idea if sparks are flying at the plasma cutter, cutting torch or grinding wheel. A hat or bandana with hair tied back helps keep you safe too. Also, it is highly recommended that you purchase some 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. Having the right gloves helps tremendously when you first start out welding. We have heavy weight gloves for you to use for more intense spark throwing tools if needed. Don't wear anything you don't want holes or stains in. People will admire your outfit at every meal!

We provide eye protection, aprons, all the tools, scrap metal and other non-metal items that we will use during class. You are welcome to bring some of your own things that you may want to use as a design element on your pieces. We will be working on some 'guardian' designs that may call for unique '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.

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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 had the 'welding bug' get them and they return year after year. Speaking of bugs, every year is different, but it's good to bring some bug repellent as swatting a mosquito while holding a lit torch does not usually turn out 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 when you will finish up those last-minute welds and clean up your space in Longhouse. After the area is cleaned, we will transport and set up our creations for your after-dinner Art Show. This show is an anticipated event for the culmination of the week's work. Please plan on taking your creations with you after the art show ends in the evening, that is, unless you sell your piece to an admirer!

I anxiously await your arrival at Ghost Ranch and look forward to seeing you briefly at the ranch orientation at 6:45pm after dinner on the day you arrive. Our meeting that night will be quick so you can get some rest and know what to expect 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.

Take Care, and please feel free to contact me with any additional information you may need regarding the workshop.

Connie Burkhart  
[rdrckwmn@msn.com](mailto:rdrckwmn@msn.com)  
505 484-9887  
[ConnieBurkhart.com](http://ConnieBurkhart.com)