

Welcome



Introduction to Southwest Silversmithing

G25090401

with Jamie Halpern

September 28-October 4, 2025

Welcome!

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 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!

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 \$100 - \$200 on silver for the week--this cost is NOT included in the class fee.

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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. Susie Sawin, 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