

# GRIFFIN DYEWORKS FIBER RETREAT

Camp Verdugo Oaks, Castaic, California

WELCOME! Here is a lot of information to help you prepare for a fun weekend.

Dye & Fiber Retreat Staff: When contacting anyone on this list to ask a question or volunteer to help, always put "Retreat" in the subject line so your message is not lost among the many other messages we all get.

Site Liaisons: John Trimble: [johnapgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:johnapgriffin@gmail.com) & Bjo Trimble: [bjotrimble@gmail.com](mailto:bjotrimble@gmail.com)

Classes & Teacher Coordinator: Therese Griffin: [whtgriffin@juno.com](mailto:whtgriffin@juno.com)

Setup & Break-down: Anyone who can show up to help!

Pre-Registration & Vendor Coordinator: Debbie Coyle: [gdwreg@gmail.com](mailto:gdwreg@gmail.com)

Sign-In, Lost & Found: Kathryn Trimble (no email)

Retreat Treasurer: John Trimble

Food Planning & Kitchen:

Website & Online Publicity: Theresa Wollenstein & Cat Ellen – [webmaster@griffindyeworks.com](mailto:webmaster@griffindyeworks.com)

Door Prizes & Tote Bags Coordinator: Bjo Trimble: [bjotrimble@gmail.com](mailto:bjotrimble@gmail.com)

Retreat fee includes: Site fee, Accommodations, all meals, snacks, beverages (except commercial sodas), tote bag full of free catalogs and samples, most classes and supplies, lots of threads and yarns, roving, dyes, mordants, propane & butane for dye stoves, loaner equipment & tools, instructions, handouts, door prizes, contests, and more.

Fee does not include: Bedding, pillows, blankets or sleeping bag, air mattress (good for cots, too), towels, swim suits, camping gear, tent lanterns, personal toiletries, some classes & materials.

Men Welcome! This is not an all-girl party! Besides spinning, dyeing, and weaving, there are crafts, plus basketball, frisbee golf, box hockey, horseshoes, rock chunking (no kidding!)

Children: We encourage fiber artists to leave children at home and enjoy a weekend of fiber fun. Children must pay the registration fee. Parents are responsible for their children at all times, as we are not a baby-sitting service. Children can play or participate in fiber activities, but must clean up after themselves. Adverse behavior means going home.

Online Registration: <http://www.griffindyeworks.com/retreat/> -- also includes FAQs, photos. If you have any registration questions, ask Debbie Coyle at [gdwreg@gmail.com](mailto:gdwreg@gmail.com) – put "Retreat Registration" in the subject line.

Volunteers: We happily accept volunteers to make this Retreat memorable and let our staff participate in activities. Sorry, volunteers don't get in free. To volunteer, contact Bjo Trimble: [bjotrimble@gmail.com](mailto:bjotrimble@gmail.com)

The Coffee Bar of Splendor: Cat Ellen will supply free hot beverages each morning and on request: drip coffee, teas, chocolates, spiced cider, with a variety of flavored creamers, syrups, and sugars. It was a real hit at former Retreats!

Alcohol in moderation permitted, but if the Ranger has to take notice, he will also take action.

Classes: No pre-Retreat class registration required but some classes may fill up fast. There will be formal as well as impromptu classes going on all during the Retreat. You can also approach teachers for instruction. There is a list of classes offered so far on our Yahoo group.

Dye classes: This is not a dye service so we will not dye things for you; you must participate. Learn to dye with natural or commercial dyes, or both. Since natural dyeing takes a long time, you can take another class while things

simmer.

Retreat fee covers some fiber to dye, or bring your own. You will need 100% natural fiber for natural dyes, but commercial fiber reactive dyes will color synthetic fibers. Hand-spun or store-bought yarn will both accept dyes. You can also bring well-washed T-shirts. Bring your own silk scarves or purchase them at the Retreat. NO unspun fleece-in-the-grease, blue-jeans or heavy cloth because they soak up too much dye.

All fiber must be well-washed. Fiber questions or have a special project? Talk to Bjo online with "Fabric" in the subject line.

Bring any dyestuffs on hand: weeds, garden cuttings, onion skins, leaves, etc. Bring any yarn, fiber, roving you wish to share, trade or sell (some is provided)

Teaching Classes: If you'd like to teach a class, fill out a class proposal form from our Yahoo group. This does not mean an automatic acceptance but Therese Griffin will contact you after she has read your class proposal.

Tent City: For spinning, weaving and other fiber activities, we set up pavilions and popups to form a large shaded area full of rugs and fiber equipment. To recreate our wonderful Tent City, we need as many popups, pavilions, shade canopies, and rugs that we can gather up. So if you have anything to loan us, please let us know!

Retreat Schedule: This is our extremely tentative schedule, very definitely subject to change.

Thur, May 13: Retreat setup for staff only – no participants (if you have good reason to come in on Thur, tell Bjo)

Fri, May 14: 8 AM: Retreat opens – casual classes.

Noon: Lunch

1 PM: Classes start

3 PM: Snacks, return to classes

6 – 7 PM: Dinner - Tell us if you will arrive late so we can save dinner for you

Evening: Talk, spin, craft, snack, have fun

Sat, May 15: 7 - 9 AM: Breakfast, Coffee Bar

9 AM: Classes start after breakfast.

10:30 AM: Mid-morning snacks, back to classes

Noon-2 PM: Lunch

3 PM: Mid-afternoon snacks, back to classes

6 - 7 PM: Dinner.

Evening: Talk, spin, craft, snack, have fun

Sun, May 16: 7 - 9 AM: Breakfast, Coffee Bar

9 AM: Classes start after breakfast

10:30 AM: Mid-morning snacks, back to classes

Noon-2 PM: Lunch, back to classes, start packing out

2 PM: Classes end, finish packing out

2:30 PM: Mid-afternoon snacks for helpers (No dinner served at Retreat on Sunday)

Camp Verdugo Oaks: CVO is administered by the Verdugo Hills Boy Scout Council. Ranger Terry Hall is resident site director. CVO is 2400 feet above sea level, well away from LA smog, in Los Padres National Forest. The swimming pool is not open this time of year.

There are hot-water shower houses and flush toilets (Ranger Terry sez "You plug it, you plunge it!") There is a Wildlife Museum and a Scout Trading Post with items for sale. The Trading Post has ice cream, candy, Scout crafts and an assortment soft drinks. Soft drink imbibers are also invited to bring their own.

The main building is a meeting lodge/dining hall, where participants eat meals, talk, play games, do crafts and show off their work. The lodge also has a restaurant-sized kitchen with a commercial ice-maker.

Directions to CVO: From the South (Los Angeles), take the I-5 Fwy north past Valencia, Castaic, and the Pyramid

Lake sign - if you reach the Lake itself, you've gone too far. Get off I-5 at Templin Hwy Exit 183. Ignore the Camp-ground sign pointing to the right; that is not us.

Turn left (under I-5) then right onto Golden State Hwy. There may be a sign across the road saying you can't go past the barrier, but there is a smaller sign allowing us into CVO. Pass the first 2 left-turns: the first entrance is a ranch, the second leads to Whittaker Peak trail. There will be a Scout Camp sign on your right just before reaching the third left turnoff. Turn left at the Oak Flat Ranger Station sign. Go past the Forestry Service campground, past the Fire Station to the Camp Verdugo Oaks gate.

Flying in: Burbank International Airport is about 40 minutes away. If flying in, tell us so we can help get you to CVO

Accommodations: If you haven't told Debbie Coyle where you want to sleep, do it now. Sleep in a 2-person floored tent or in the large bunkhouse. The handicap bunkhouse sleeps 4 but is not very handicap accessible. It has a large handicap toilet and shower, however.

Buildings have electricity, tents do not. You can also camp in your own tent with nearby shower-house and toilets. For those who don't wish to rough it, Castaic motels are 10 miles away: [www.castaic.org](http://www.castaic.org) but the Retreat fee does not cover any motel arrangements.

Recreational Vehicles: There is very limited space on site, so reserve a spot ahead of time to make sure you can park your RV on the property.

Electronics: Some cell phones work at CVO, some don't. Bring cameras and video cameras, but ask permission before filming a class. We have electricity for laptops but no wifi.

No smoking except in designated areas, and certainly NOT around others. After the recent wildfires, anyone lighting up may get surrounded by Forestry Service firemen!

On-site Traffic: Speed limit on site: 10 mph at all times. Quiet time: 10:30 PM to 7:00 AM -- This includes vehicles.

Parking: Parking lot is just inside the gate, but you can drive to the lodge to unload. All vehicles must be parked facing out, due to high fire danger. Every car must have a Parking Permit (issued when you check in) so we can find you in an emergency.

Participant Dress: Wear casual, grubby clothes and comfortable shoes that can get wet or dirty; there are lots of messy things to do. Sandals are OK in flat areas, but not in weeds (ticks) or on trails (poison ivy). Bring a sweater for evenings. Oh, and a bathrobe and slippers (it's co-ed, remember!). This is not an SCA event, so garb is not required.

Personal Necessities: CVO is not a 4-star hotel, so everything you'll need for the weekend must be brought in. Put your name on everything.

High SPF Sunscreen and lip balm (VERY important!)

Bug repellent

Any personal medication

Toiletry kit

Hand lotion

Note-taking materials

Air mattress (a good idea even on cots)

Sturdy apron

Sun hat and sun glasses

Hair band to keep long hair out of dyepots

Bath towel and shower stuff

Moisturizer Body powder (helps with heat rash)

Ear plugs

Bedding

Sewing kit with good scissors

Flashlight and batteries

Medication & First Aid: We cannot legally supply any medication except under First Aid emergencies. Bring your own medication with your name written on it so it can be stored in the kitchen refrigerator (if necessary).

Optional:

Bring drop spindle, spinning wheel, lap or table loom if you have them; there will be loaners.

Bring any other portable fiber equipment and tools.

Bring camera and film, tape recorder, video camera

Camp chair

Battery lanterns for camping, floored tents

Fiber event photos  
Gel neck-wraps  
Battery fan-misters  
Any projects and UFOs (UnFinished Objects)  
If you have some, bring any instructional fiber videos or DVDs.

What not to bring: No hard liquor, no firearms, no pets (they attract predators), no fancy jewelry (it always gets lost), no fragrances or perfume (bugs just love perfume!).

Weather: It will be warm during the day, small chance of rain. Nights can be chilly in the mountains, so bring a jacket or sweater for evening. Watch weather reports as Retreat time approaches.

Vendors: The Retreat is not a great selling venue so there is no extra charge to sell. If you know anyone with fiber or crafts-related merchandise, have them contact Debbie or Bjo. Vendors are responsible for their own setup, shade, credit card machines, etc.

Tote Bags: If you have anything to announce, or sell, we accept flyers, catalogs, samples, coupons, business cards, or anything else that might interest Retreat participants. We'd like to have it mailed to us a week before the Retreat, but need it at least by 10 am Friday morning. There will be a tote-decorating contest at the Retreat.

Scholarship Table: We have a Retreat Scholarship for those fiber artists who need financial assistance to attend. Those who have extra Good Stuff to share are asked to donate it for others to happily carry home for a small donation.

Door Prizes: Door prizes will be given out throughout the weekend, so if you have anything to donate, bring it to the Retreat and give it to Bjo.

Please share: Tell Bjo if you can share. Use duct-tape to put your name in permanent marker on everything!

Camp stoves  
Gas-rings  
Turkey fryers  
Propane tanks and hook-ups (we cover propane cost)  
Folding tables  
Dyepots - enameled, stainless steel, iron and copper and old crock pots  
Plastic kitty litter and pet food buckets for soaking and rinsing  
Wash tubs for soaking and rinsing  
Knee-highs and pantyhose (to hold dyestuff)  
Strings of lights  
Battery lanterns  
Rugs

Retreat Email Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FiberRetreat/> - Join us for lively discussions on more than the Dye & Fiber Retreat. We also talk about dyeing, fiber arts, classes, sales venues, books, resources, and other fun stuff! Look in the Files for flyers to copy and hand out.

Publicity: Since this Retreat is scheduled much earlier this year than last, we have not had much time to publicize this event. So please help pass the word: tell friends, tell online guilds, tell lists, tell local fiber shops. We have flyers to give out if you are going to a show, or know a shop that will hand them out. Thank you.

Add us to your address book! We do most of our Retreat business by email, but if we are spam-blocked then you will not get much information. So make sure that the Dye Retreat information and messages from Bjo Trimble get through and are not sent to the Spam department.

The Dye & Fiber Retreat is sponsored by  
**GRIFFIN DYEWORKS & FIBER ARTS**  
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<http://www.griffindyeworks.com>

## RETREAT FAQs

Who is behind the Retreat? Griffin Dyeworks & Fiber Arts is a home-based business that sells natural dyes, fibers and small fiber tools. It is owned and operated by John & Bjo Trimble, plus family and helpful friends, bless them!

Isn't your fee rather high? Not for what we offer. Here are examples of other workshops and retreats:

- 1 day dye class: \$150.00 plus \$10.00 materials fee, no food or lodging
- 1 day dye class with Big Name teacher: \$350.00 plus \$65.00 materials fee, no food or lodging
- 2 day dye workshop: \$150.00 plus \$10.00 materials fee, no food or lodging
- 3 day dye workshop: \$295.00 plus \$30.00 materials fee, no food or lodging

What are "loaner tools"? We have an assortment of spinning wheels, looms, drop spindles, carding combs and other fiber tools that you can borrow during the Retreat but not take home.

Are there wild animals? The camp is in a wilderness area so there are many fuzzy and furry friends of the animal kingdom: field mice, raccoons, possums, squirrels, packrats, owls, hawks and others birds. The most ravening creatures at CVO are Retreat participants going for freshly baked cookies!

How big is a floored tent? The tents are 12 x 12 feet, just large enough to hold the 2 cots supplied, and space to shove your suitcase under the cot. The tents have heavy canvas walls and wooden floors about 1 foot off the ground.

Is the Handicap Bunkhouse really accessible? No. This small cabin next to the handicap toilet and shower, has 2 bunk-beds and floor space for 1 folding chair. It is not truly wheelchair accessible.

What is the bunkhouse? The large building holds 15-17 bunk-beds and quickly becomes a big pajama party.

Are there outhouses? No. All the toilets on the site are flush (yay!)

How about showers? There are 2 shower houses with several hot-water showers in each. There are male and female showers in the main shower house and some in the pool house.

Is CVO online? No, but you can find a map: <http://www.vhcbasa.org/camping/cvomap.htm>

What will I learn? Here is a partial list of former classes. Not all of them will be repeated but there will also be some new classes.

Basket-making	Bead-making	Block printing	Carding
Combing	Drop spinning	Dye Painting	Felting
Finger-braiding	Great wheel spinning	Inkle weaving	Knitting
Kumihimo	Lapidary	Lucet cord-making	MX fiber reactive dyeing
Naalbinding	Natural dyeing	Pin-weaving	Resist dyeing
Silk-painting	Silk spinning	Sprang	Tablet weaving
Tie-dye	Triangle loom	Tunisian crochet	Viking whipcord
Warp-weighted weaving	Washing fleece	Wire jewelry	and much more

Can I bring a special project? Bring a small project and someone will help with it. However, the Retreat is a learning experience for all so we cannot devote time on large personal projects.

How will classes be run? We have some structured classes but will also continue with the popular informal, impromptu learning atmosphere that Retreat participants have come to love.

May I teach a class? Contact Instructor Coordinator Therese Griffin at [whtgriffin@juno.com](mailto:whtgriffin@juno.com) and tell her what you want to teach. She will discuss it with you and give you all the details you need to know.

I'm not an expert so can I still teach? Yes. Beginning classes are very welcome.

How long do classes have to be? It's up to the teacher and what is being taught. Some classes are 20 minutes of simple make-and-take, some classes are an hour or two, and some classes go all weekend.

Are all the meals actually provided? You will be well-fed, guaranteed. All meals and several delicious snacks are included in the fee, served each day of the Retreat.

What about my food allergies? Meals are buffet-style with all ingredients listed, so you can easily work around any food problems. You will not go hungry.

What is The Coffee Bar of Splendor? Cat Ellen supplies free hot beverages each morning and at other times on request: drip coffee, teas, cocoa, spiced cider, served with flavored creamers, syrups, and sugars.

Can I help cook? Thanks but we have an experienced kitchen crew. If you would like to be considered for future Retreats, tell us your experience in a restaurant-sized kitchen feeding 70+ people (participants and staff).

Are children welcome? If the child has fiber interest and is watched carefully all weekend. We do not encourage just dragging kids along.

Do I need sunscreen in May? Yes!!! The Retreat is at a higher altitude with less protection from the sun. Use high SPF lip balm. You will also need moisturizer for working with wool or dyeing.

Can I just sell one item? You are welcome to bring items to sell or trade, or just give away if you wish.

Is it an SCA event? No. The Retreat is open to anyone interested in fiber arts. The Retreat is has nothing to do with the Society for Creative Anachronism except that several of us are members, so medieval costume is not required.

Why badges? We use name badges so everyone can make friends faster and so you can fine out why Debbie Coyle is called 'Lynnette' or Roberta Brubaker is called 'Bridget'. Besides, the name badges are in plastic pockets so you can keep your door prize tickets handy.

Is everything done by volunteers? Yes. We pay teachers and helpers in vouchers for Griffin Dyeworks merchandise or discounts on future Retreats if they perform as promised.

How can I help? Sign up early. Volunteer to help. Volunteer to teach. Tell everyone about the Retreat because we are not in every guild or on every online fiber site. We need help to reach as many potential Retreat participants as possible.

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