

South Carolina Gourd Society

2026 Gourd Festival

Workshop Instructor Application



Instructors - ** Please Note

You will be welcome to sell your completed gourds at your class area, but you will need to bring your own table. 10% of your total sales goes to the SC Gourd Society.

The **SCGS 2026 Gourd Festival** will be held at the Ghost Creek Gourd Farm in Laurens, S.C. on April 24th and 25th. We are looking for new techniques, ideas, fun and educational classes. All classes will be 3 ½ to 4 hours in length, to allow all students to complete their projects at the Festival. One session on Friday (1-5) and two sessions on Saturday (8-11:30; 1-5), with multiple classes per session, will enable out of town participants to have more selections.

Provided to you as an instructor:

- Registration services
 - Our registration personnel will manage a wait list for your class and manage substitutions as necessary
 - Students will be required to pre-pay for classes to ensure that you are guaranteed class payment, even if a student is a no show
 - Prompt payment at the conclusion of your class (**note that SCGS will retain \$5 from each student fee for services**)
- Facilities
 - The society will provide 30x45 rental tent(s) for the classes to be held under.
 - One tent will be reserved for “noisy” and “smelly” classes to enhance the student experience.
 - If weather reports look inclement by the week of the event, side walls will be ordered to protect against rain and/or cold
 - Other tents will be on the grounds as well, if needed, for overflow.
 - 3 tables per class; if you need more than 3 tables, each additional table will be an \$8 charge.
 - Electricity, if needed
- Ghost Creek Gourds (GCG) will supply all the gourds at no cost for your class in order to offset some of your costs.
 - If you need the gourds early for preparation, you will need to pay for shipping if you are unable to pick them up at the farm.
 - If you already have your class gourds, GCG will give you comparable replacement gourds for you to take home with you, up to the number of students that you are paid for.
 - Note that GCG does not grow all types of gourds and may not have the type you plan to use for your class. In this case, a comparable type will be provided to you for use in a future event.
- Advertising to other gourd societies, GCGs clients, news/radio, businesses

Required of you as an instructor:

- Your submission packet will be considered **ONLY IF COMPLETE** (all fields completed fully; Photo for website include – prefer in.jpg format).
- Certification that your class project, handout and photos are of your original design, or that you have written permission from the original artist.
- **The class fee (half day class) maximum has been established as \$65, with \$5 being retained by the SCGS per student.**
- Your class tutorials should be comprehensive, including materials list (and where to procure if specialty items), color photos, step-by-step instructions, how to complete any items at home that are not included in the class time at the festival.
- Photo of your project that shows exactly what will be taught. **Photos must be in JPEG format and emailed for website inclusion.** 5 students at different tables will all have the ability to see the sample from their location.
- Teachers are responsible for electrical cords and power strips for their class.
- If you are accepted as an instructor and have the minimum number of students in your class, then you are expected to teach the class. Cancellations after being accepted may prevent you from being considered for future gourd events.
- You are expected to provide all class supplies, including appropriate table coverings to prevent damage to the tables. Students should only be expected to bring items like unusual tools (carvers, wood burners), aprons, and masks.
- SCGS has an event raffle. Any raffle items would be appreciated, but not required.
- If you are completing the form in Microsoft Word, if you double click on the selection box you will be able to “check” it.
- **Submit your proposal(s) by 1-15-26 via email to socarolinagourdsociety@gmail.com. The committee will meet shortly after January 7th. You will receive a return email acknowledging receipt of your submission. If email is not an option for you, you may mail your entry to Linda Martin, 2108 Ghost Creek Road, Laurens, SC 29360. Any mailed entries must be RECEIVED by 1-15-26 to be considered. There are no restrictions to the numbers of class submissions accepted, but each submitted class must be on a separate proposal form.**

Selection Process

You will be contacted prior to February 4, 2026 to review the website posting information if your class is accepted.

- Selections will be based on multiple selection criteria, including but not limited to, uniqueness of project/technique, originality, where class has already been taught or will be offered, and diversity of projects to offer to students.
- Requests for a specific day / time of day will be considered, but due to the overall scheduling may not be available.
- A submission of a proposal does not guarantee selection for a teaching spot.

Instructor's Name			
Address	Street		
	City	State	Zip code
Telephone	Home:	Mobile	
Email Address			

Class Name (Print/Type Legibly; For Website)											
Class Description If in PDF version, attach another sheet if need more space for description This will be copied to the website – make sure it is complete, and sells your class. Write in 3 rd person.											
Description of any pictured items that will not be part of the finished project	**** required to email picture in .JPEG format										
Will the students be able to complete this project during class?	☐ Yes ☐ No If "No" selected, what components do you expect to take additional time outside of class? If "No" selected, will you be providing the items to complete the project at home? ☐ Yes ☐ No										
Number of students you will accept (maximum and minimum required)	Minimum: _____ Maximum: _____ or SCGS Limit/Class: ☐ 12										
Will you accept walk-ins up to max?	☐ Yes ☐ No										
Skill Level of Class	☐ All Skill Levels Welcome ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced										
Skills Taught Check all that apply	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> ☐ Carving ☐ Cutting a Gourd ☐ Chip Carving ☐ Wood burning ☐ Sanding Skills ☐ Cleaning Inside/Out of a Gourd ☐ Basketry </td> <td> ☐ Armature ☐ Clay work (apoxy, clay, quickwood) ☐ Painting ☐ Staining ☐ Sealing ☐ Drilling ☐ Mixed Media </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Others (Please List)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>			☐ Carving ☐ Cutting a Gourd ☐ Chip Carving ☐ Wood burning ☐ Sanding Skills ☐ Cleaning Inside/Out of a Gourd ☐ Basketry	☐ Armature ☐ Clay work (apoxy, clay, quickwood) ☐ Painting ☐ Staining ☐ Sealing ☐ Drilling ☐ Mixed Media	Others (Please List)					
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Others (Please List)											
Students Should Bring	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> ☐ Dust Mask ☐ Eye Protection ☐ Hearing Protection ☐ Apron ☐ Protective gloves ☐ Gloves – Kind: _____ ☐ Paintbrushes – sizes: _____ ☐ Clay Work Tools ☐ Chip Carving Tools – size _____ Specify Any Other Items not Listed: _____ _____ </td> <td> ☐ Wood burner ☐ Wood burner tools: specify kind of tips _____ ☐ Carver ☐ Carving bits: specify kinds and sizes of bits _____ ☐ Drill ☐ Drill bits: specify size _____ ☐ Gourd Carver with spare blades ☐ Heat Gun ☐ Soldering Iron </td> </tr> </table>			☐ Dust Mask ☐ Eye Protection ☐ Hearing Protection ☐ Apron ☐ Protective gloves ☐ Gloves – Kind: _____ ☐ Paintbrushes – sizes: _____ ☐ Clay Work Tools ☐ Chip Carving Tools – size _____ Specify Any Other Items not Listed: _____ _____	☐ Wood burner ☐ Wood burner tools: specify kind of tips _____ ☐ Carver ☐ Carving bits: specify kinds and sizes of bits _____ ☐ Drill ☐ Drill bits: specify size _____ ☐ Gourd Carver with spare blades ☐ Heat Gun ☐ Soldering Iron						
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Instructor Will Provide Check all that apply; add other items not listed	Required: ☒ Prepared Gourd ☒ Detailed Instruction Sheet(s) Check ALL items you will provide: ☐ Chip Carving Tool ☐ Drill bits appropriate for class ☐ Patterns ☐ Alcohol Dyes ☐ Leather Inks ☐ Paint ☐ Paintbrushes ☐ Basket reed ☐ Glue ☐ Wire ☐ Cord / Waxed Linen Thread	☐ Quickwood ☐ Epoxy Sculpt ☐ Needles ☐ Clay working tools ☐ Wood burner on request ☐ Soldering Iron on request ☐ Heat Gun ☐ Glitter ☐ Embossing Ink ☐ Embossing powder Other: List anything not identified
Previously Taught At	Year / Location:	Year / Location:
Additional Places Will Be Taught At	Year / Location:	Year / Location:
Individual Student Fee Being Charged \$5 of fee will go to SCGS per student (per half day class)	☐ 20 ☐ 25 ☐ 30 ☐ 35 ☐ 40 ☐ 45 ☐ 50 ☐ 55 ☐ 60 ☐ 65 \$65 maximum fee set by SCGS (for a half-day class) - In setting fees, consider the supplies you are providing versus your students are providing and the complexity of what you are teaching (new concept; existing concept). - The goal of this festival is to share knowledge and increase the gourdng audiences. Please strive to keep class costs low.	
How long is your class?	☐ 3 ½ hours ☐ 4 hours	
What is your preferred day/time to teach?	☐ CANNOT TEACH ON ☐ Friday PM ☐ Saturday AM ☐ Saturday PM ☐ Requesting Friday PM (4 hour class slot) ☐ Requesting Saturday AM (3 ½ hour class slot) ☐ Requesting Saturday PM (4 hour class slot)	
Do you require electrical outlets?	☐ Yes ☐ No Teachers are responsible for electrical cords and power strips for their class.	
Will you need more than 3 tables?	☐ Yes ☐ No If "Yes", how many more? _____ \$10 fee added per table above 3 provided by SCGS	
Type of gourd needed from GCGF GCGF does not grow all types of gourds, and may not have the kind that you need for your class.	Describe type and size Do you require this type of gourd to be shipped to you prior to the class? ☐ Yes ☐ No Note that shipping costs will be the responsibility of the instructor.	
May we share your email with registered students?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
Certification	This proposal is my original work ☐ Yes ☐ No If this is not your original work, Whose work is this? _____ Do you have written permission to teach this method? ☐ Yes ☐ No	