

SHEPHERD'S CROSS SHEEP TO SHAWL TEAM
WOOLLY WEEKEND
April 24, 25 & 26, 2025

Dear Sheep to Shawl Team Participants:

Thank you so much for taking the time and energy to make this experience a part of your life. I can assure you that you will learn a lot, have bountiful opportunities to teach folks with an interest in fiber arts, and create a unique memory and shawls, that will mark a time in history and culture.

The Sheep to Shawl experience at Shepherd's Cross is unique and may well be the only one of its kind in our nation. The cornerstone of meeting this objective is to encourage historical and nomadic cultural fiber arts. The objective of this event is education, the reenactment and encouragement of historical fiber arts and encouragement of participating artisans. In performing these tasks together, we tap into the history of the ages, passed down to each of us, through the generations, and then passed forward to future generations. We see the history of the generations woven in the finished tapestry of the artisans that participate. We will not personally see the future generations, but they will see us in the tapestry we leave them as an inheritance.

Our objective is completely different from any other sheep to shawl event that we are aware of. Most focus on quality and speed. We focus on encouraging one another, especially beginners, in the fiber arts, building community, and using only fiber shorn during the three-day event.

The work we do is a bit challenging because it involves some interesting factors:

1. We will be working together as a team; with team members you may never even meet.
 - a. This is a difficult but rewarding opportunity to build something together that alone could not be accomplished.
 - b. We demonstrate the artfulness of each participant and enable the memory of fiber artists from historical cultures to be treasured.
 - c. We estimate around 30 team members this year
 - d. Team members are assigned to a particular area: spinning (warp, weft or knit & crochet), weaving, needle felting, washing, tumbling, skirting, carding, picking, dyeing, setting the twist, knitting and crocheting.
2. We encourage novice and experienced fiber artists to participate.
3. There is a strict time factor, in that the shawl must be made with the first shorn fleeces from Thursday morning (approx. 9:00 am)
 - a. Completely and totally (no pre-processed fiber is allowed)
 - b. All shawls are to be completed by 4:00 pm on Saturday of Woolly Weekend
4. We will be making at least 2 shawls this year.
5. This project involves using some greased fleece for spinning, weaving, felting, knitting and crocheting. In our culture, we tend to be less experienced in working with greased fleece. Many cultures around the world still work with greased fleeces today.

Thanks for helping us recruit team members. It makes the work joyful. Joy is the overture for this event. We want to joyfully work, joyfully give, joyfully live and joyfully teach. Yes, even when we find a cocklebur in our yarn! And we don't know what to do with it! Even when the grease fleece leaves a stain on our own garments we will smile with joy and remember when we worked together for the greater good.

We want to joyfully impact as many lives as we can to promote and share historical and nomadic fiber arts. The nomadic and historical fiber arts section in the Farm Museum is growing. Be sure to visit this section while you are at the farm. Additionally, take a few minutes to watch the sheep shearing, and tour the wool mill and fiber arts studio.

Fiber artists are welcome to demonstrate without being on the sheep to shawl team. Simply bring your own project along for your shift.

Additionally, this year, we may have some sheep to shawl **team members that will work off site**. Let us know what you want to do as a part of the team, and we can set up a pick up and drop off arrangement.

Shifts Available (On Site)

9:30 - 2:30 or 2:00 - 7:00 each of the 3 days (Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

Shawl Descriptions & Time Frames

Raspberry and cedar green on a golden fleece, and alongside light golden fleece, will be the colors for the shawls this year.

1. Woven

- a. Rectangular Block Twill
 - b. Hand spun warp and weft threads
 - i. Warp threads from golden fleece
 - ii. Weft threads from raspberry, cedar and golden.
 - c. Woven on a harnessed floor or table loom
 - d. Approximately 20 inches wide by 72 inches long
 - e. Knotted fringe finish on edges
 - f. Warp the loom Friday
 - g. Warping of loom complete by Friday at 7:00 pm
 - h. Weave the shawl on Saturday, beginning at 9 am and complete by 4:30 pm
- Location – Fiber Arts Studio

2 & 3. Knit Block Shawl & Crochet Block Shawl

- a. Blocks of 12 inch square knit or crochet with each square made by a different artist
- b. At least one knit square made by many artists – throw a row of stitches on in the museum
- c. Minimum of 6 blocks long for one shawl
- d. If enough participants, then one crocheted shawl & one knit shawl
- e. Blocks must have square edges
- g. Recommend larger needles and hooks because of the larger yarn size (sport to bulky weight)
- i. Blocks made with greased fleece hand spun – spinning begins Thursday morning; available by mid-day Thursday
- j. Some washed and hand spun will be available by Thursday mid-afternoon for some of blocks
- k. Spun fiber made throughout the course of the 3 days
blocks may be golden, raspberry or cedar or a combination thereof.

Needle Felted Spring Artwork to attach to the shawls

Needle felted appliques will be made to attach to the shawls. These may be made from raspberry, cedar or golden color.

Completion & Pictures

When the shawls are complete, we will take a group picture with each completed shawl. Let Dr. D. know and she will coordinate the group picture taking, including all participants that are on site at the time of completion for that particular shawl.

Be sure we get your picture while you are on site participating.

Additionally, if you have joined the team off site, please send a picture to upload on social media.

Taking Sheep to Shawl Work Home

If you would like to take your project home to continue working on Thursday or Friday, you may. Please notify Dr. D. what project you will be working on at home. In the early years of our Sheep to Shawl experience, when there was only one or two artisans working on the project, we always took home assignments! Thank you for growing our team!

What to do Before Coming to the Farm

- Gather your tools, for your particular team assignment, or let us know what tools you would like to borrow.
- What to wear? Here is an excerpt from our training guidelines to help with your decision making:
 - Country style attire
 - ☐ Visitors are here for just a few moments in time, and we want them to experience the “country howdy.”
 - No Bees
 - ☐ No bare belly, bare thigh, bare shoulder, bare bust, bare back, etc.
 - ☐ Modest attire; including “body wear”
 - T-shirt or Country style shirt and jeans or capris/long skirt.
 - ☐ Blue jean apparel is the best choice
 - ☐ Apparel – try to be “country style”
- Bring that smile along!
- Name Tag & apron or vest provided (or bring your own apron or vest or country style shirt)
- Be ready to interact with the public. They are so anxious to learn and want to know any small details about fiber arts that you would like to share. We want them to have a positive learning experience.

What to expect when you arrive:

- You will be stationed upstairs in the demonstration area (north side) unless assignment is in the dry or wet fiber area or fiber arts studio.
 - You may stop at the front of the barn to unload equipment, and then park in parking lot
 - You may leave your equipment at the base of the stairs, out of the walkway, while you go to park.
- Before going upstairs with your equipment, please stop at the front desk to:
 - Fill out the volunteer log
 - Pick up a name tag
 - Pick up a sheep to shawl tag
 - Sign waiver & get “prayed in”.
- Find a chair labelled “demonstrator” and stake your claim.
- Upon arrival, if you do not know your team assignment, please ask Dr. D. She is the keeper of the fiber, yarn and finished blocks and shawls. She will provide the wool fiber or yarn needed for your assignment. If during the course of the day you have any challenges with the assignment, please speak personally with Dr. D., the sheep to shawl team lead.

Team Assignments

Wool Skirting

- Fleeces will be skirted. We will choose 3 or 4 quality golden fleeces this year.
- Take off the dirtier parts of each fleece (retain only the prime backline for the Sheep to Shawl event) and place in a labelled bin, labelled Sheep to Shawl fleeces – Extra
- After heavily skirting & removing dirtier parts of the fleece
 - **Golden Fleece** with longest fiber length – to be washed, dyed, picked and carded and then given to spinners for weft spinning & knitting/crochet spinning. Can be slightly damp.
 - **Golden Fleece** - will be spun in the grease.
- The team participants will be workers from Shepherd's Cross TBA

Wool Tumbling

- All washed fleeces will be tumbled
- The team participants will be workers from Shepherd's Cross TBA

Wool Washing

- After washing, lay on drying racks
- May be given to pickers & carders when still slightly damp
- The team participants will be workers from Shepherd's Cross TBA

Wool Dyeing

- This year's color scheme is raspberry and cedar dyed over a light golden fleece
- Wool Dyeing will be performed by workers from Shepherd's Cross TBA

Pickers

- Picking begins as soon as some fleece has been washed and spun to dry.
- All Picked fleece will be carded
- All washed fleece will be picked when ready – Thursday afternoon at the latest
 - All washed and dyed fleece will finish being picked on Thursday for spinning
- Pickers and carders will be located downstairs in the wool mill/fiber arts studio
- As wool is picked BE SURE TO LABEL THE BINS
- The team participants will be workers from Shepherd's Cross TBA

Carders

- All picked fleece will be carded
- Carding equipment will be in the fiber arts studio
 - Use electric carder or hand carder
- Weigh picked fiber before carding; standard 2.5 oz per batt
- As wool is carded BE SURE TO LABEL THE BINS
- The team participants will be workers from Shepherd's Cross TBA

Spinners

- Each spinner is asked to make at least one bobbin full of yarn. This can be readily accomplished in a single 5 hour shift.
- **Spinners – you will be asked to make one of the following yarns – if you do not know your assignment please ask Dr. D., the team coordinator**
 - Warp thread – spun thin enough to be a 1 ply lace to sport weight yarn (approx. 14 WPI)

- We will 2 ply and set the twist
- Plying will be done by a Shepherd's Cross assigned worker.
- Spun from the golden fleece.
 - no picking or carding
- Weft Thread – spun thicker – farm stead style – larger than a worsted weight 2 ply (approx. 10 - 12 WPI)
 - Spun from golden, raspberry or cedar fiber.
- Knit or Crochet Thread – Objective: sport weight yarn – 2 ply (approx. 3 or 4 WPI)
 - Spun from golden, raspberry or cedar fiber.
- Spinning in the grease requires a different skill set. Be patient and enduring
- Please pick out debris as you go
- If the fleece is too dirty to be spun please advise Dr. D. We will acquire another fleece and start over if we need to do that.

Setting the twist for the yarns

- We will set the twist of the yarn of all yarn before it is used.
 - Spin to dry
- Yarn will be dampened in the sink or washed if it is twisted to set overnight or for a few hours.
- Yarn will be swatted, and dried under pressure
 - May be spun in the panda to get out excessive water
- The team participants will be workers from Shepherd's Cross TBA

Needle Felters

- Needle Felt some appliques – (TBA) finish, onto the felted knit and or crochet shawls. These shapes may be 3-D or 2-D.
- Shapes will be made separately and then attached to the shawls.

Knitters & Crocheters

- Blocks of 12 inch square knit or crochet with each square made by a different artist
- At least one knit square made by many artists.
- Minimum of 6 blocks long for one shawl
- If enough participants, then one crocheted shawl & one knit shawl
- Blocks must have square edges
- Be sure to check gauge, under pressure after casting on; and after first row; and after 2nd row. If gauge is not correct, then please unravel and begin again. In addition, needle and hook size will be standardized this year to simplify gauge.
 - Needle size for Knitters: 10 or larger
 - Hook size for crocheters: H or larger

If you do not have these sizes, let us know, and we can supply them in advance.

Weavers

Plan A: Large, 6 blocks, 395 yards

Total Yards Needed: 395 yards

Weave: Block Twill

Width: 19.6" + (includes 4 selvedge threads)

Length: 72" (includes fringe allowance)

22" Knotted Weaver's Fringe
50" Woven Fabric
Total Warp Length: 3 yards
5epi on 10 dent reed sleyed 1,0
16 warp threads per twill block
12 weft picks per twill block
1 twill block = 3.2"W x 2"L
6 blocks wide + 4 selvedge threads
25 blocks long
100 total warp threads inc selvedge
***300 yards of warp total
Hemstitch allowance = 2 yards
2.94" = 15% weft take-up
22.54" = 1 weft pick with 15% take-up
189.8 yards of weft (w hemstitch)
***95 yards of each weft color

of Heddles per Harness
1: 12 + 2 selvedge threads = 14
2: 12 + 2 selvedge threads = 14
3: 12
4: 12
5: 12
6: 12
7: 12
8: 12
Total: 100 Heddles

Plan B: Medium, 5 blocks, 332 yards

Total Yards Needed: 332 yards
Weave: Block Twill
Width: 16.4" (includes selvedge threads)
Length: 72" (includes fringe allowance)
22" Knotted Weaver's Fringe
50" Woven Fabric
Total Warp Length: 3 yards
5epi on a 10 dent reed sleyed 1,0
16 warp threads per twill block
12 weft picks per twill block
1 twill block = 3.2" x 2"
5 blocks wide + 4 selvedge threads
25 blocks long
84 total warp threads inc selvedge
***252 yards of warp total
Hemstitch allowance = 2 yards
2.46" = 15% weft take-up

18.86" = 1 weft pick with 15% take-up
159.2 yards of weft (w hemstitch)
***80 yards of each weft color

of Heddles per Harness

1: 8 + 2 selvedge threads = 10

2: 8 + 2 selvedge threads = 10

3: 8

4: 8

5: 12

6: 12

7: 12

8: 12

Total: 84 Heddles

Plan C: Small, 4 blocks, 269 yards

Total Yards Needed: 269 yards

Weave: Block Twill

Width: 13.2" (includes selvedge threads)

Length: 72" (includes fringe allowance)

22" Knotted Weavers Fringe

50" Woven Fabric

Total Warp Length: 3 yards

5epi on a 10 dent reed sleyed 1,0

16 warp threads per twill block

12 weft picks per twill block

1 twill block = 3.2"W x 2"L

4 blocks wide + 4 selvedge threads

25 blocks long

68 total warp threads inc selvedge

***204 yards of warp total

Hemstitch allowance = 2 yards

1.98" = 15% weft take-up

15.18" = 1 weft pick with 15% take-up

128.5 yards of weft w hemstitch

***65 yards of each weft color

of Heddles per Harness

1: 8 + 2 selvedge threads = 10

2: 8 + 2 selvedge threads = 10

3: 8

4: 8

5: 8

6: 8

7: 8

8: 8

Total: 68 Heddles

Exodus 28 talks about those who worked with “skilled hands” to spin and weave fabric for the priests garments. Thank you for giving of your talent today. May your labor be blessed.

I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. Thank you for the privilege of spending time together and passing down a heritage for future generations. Friends that do fiber arts together are woven together in the tapestry of life. Let us weave a beautiful tapestry for the flock.

Weaving for The Great Shepherd,

Dr. Diane Dickinson

Sheep to Shawl Coordinator & Team Leader