

Washington State Gourd Society
3rd Annual Gourd Retreat
July 15-17, 2026
Historical Mineral Lake Lodge Conference Center

Weaving in a Gourd

July 17th 9 am – 3 or 4 pm

Instructor: Eileen Marcotte

Maximum Class Size: 15

Cost: \$70

Description:

The first half of the class, you will learn the steps in creating a beautiful woven loom gourd. You will learn how to cut the loom out, set up and sew the loom into the gourd, and weave the weft onto the loom. The last half of the class, you will finish the gourd top with a basketry technique (not necessarily the Danish coiling pictured to the left.) You may also embellish your gourd with beads or pods. You will be able to finish this project in class.



What to bring:

Gourd that is cleaned inside and out. You should be able to fit your hand inside the opening at the top.
Dyed and lacquered sprayed - it can be any color you want

Optional to bring your own as I will have these items for you to share with others.

*Mini Jigsaw

*Drill

#4 Irish Waxed Linen thread or Poly Waxed Thread (any color you want for the loom)

Any extra material (yarns, ribbon, etc) that you may want to weave in your gourd

Any embellishments (beads, pods, etc.) that you might want to add

**The tools are only to use in class.*

Provided by the Instructor:

Variety of seagrass and weaving material

Mini Jigsaw

Drill

Loom and coiling materials

Instructor Bio:

I started weaving baskets in 1988 and was introduced to gourds in 1989. I was fascinated with the uniqueness of each gourd. I joined gourd guilds and learned more and more. I started learning from a master woodcarver, taking my gourd art to a new level. I love to learn and share my knowledge through teaching others.

My art form incorporates gourds, weaving fibers, and basketry techniques. Every gourd is different. Is it thick enough to carve? Does it want embellishment? Is it too thin for carving, and perhaps it needs only ink for color? Is there a crack? Can it be cut out and used as a loom for a weave? No two gourds are exactly alike making every gourd is one of a kind.

Find me Facebook and Instagram @Gourds by Eileen or www.eileenmarcotteart.com