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Inspire, Engage, Advance: 89th Annual Craftsmen's Fair Celebrates Arts Community with Focus on the Future

Event Returns to Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury August 6-14

CONCORD, NH – A long-standing tradition proudly reflects the mission to advance, cultivate, and champion excellence in Fine Craft when the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen holds their 89th Annual Craftsmen's Fair this year. The Fair opens Saturday, August 6th on the grounds of the Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury and will run through Sunday, August 14th. Organizers have seamlessly blended the annual artisan offerings that draw many thousands of visitors with renewed efforts to introduce young hearts and minds to the League. Special activities and offerings for all ages are guaranteed to add to the joy of each family's visit to the Fair.

“Just as our members use a process to turn raw materials into unique and beautiful works, the year-round work at the League is focused on expanding our mentoring efforts to create new paths to membership and recruiting the next generation of artisans to lend their creativity and raw talent to this community,” explains Miriam Carter, Executive Director of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. “We want the Fair to reflect these efforts. Our ‘Kids Create!’ Tent, for example, is for youth to get their hands into our world and use a wide variety of materials to create their own work of art. Frequently, it's experiences like these that inspire a young mind to pursue a life-long path of creativity.”

The 89th Annual Craftsmen's Fair will feature several newly juried member exhibitor booths, new demonstrations including young demonstrators in our Next Generation tent, free and low-cost workshops, numerous food options for visitors and the chance for young people to explore the Fair in a new way. Children can join the ‘Craft Clues’ Scavenger Hunt, where kids follow a color-coded Fair map and answer questions about each special location to complete the activity. If they collect all the answers, they will go to the ‘Kids Create!’ tent, where they can choose a handmade prize created especially for this activity by one of our craftsmen. Each child who wishes to participate in the ‘Craft Clues’ scavenger hunt will be given a worksheet and a participation button when they enter at the ticket gate.

The 89th Annual Craftsmen's Fair is the League's signature event and the biggest fundraiser for the non-profit organization, which serves more than 650 juried members. This year, the Fair features hundreds of exhibitors, the Art, Craft & Design and Sculpture Garden Exhibitions, and opportunities to watch artists demonstrate throughout each day. Guests can observe and ask questions to learn more about the processes that go into creating beautiful handmade items in a variety of mediums.



The League is always happy to welcome other organizations within the NH arts community to share their talents at the Fair. Fairgoers will be able to visit tents and take in demonstrations by numerous regional craft guilds, the New Hampshire Art Association, and the Guild of NH Woodworkers. Members of the NHAA will demonstrate their skills working *en plein air* on Monday and Wednesday of the Fair and will again have their tent with member work all week. The Guild of NH Woodworkers brings skilled demonstrators who will show techniques and equipment covering many aspects of wood craft all day every day of the event.

“We are happy to welcome invited guest booth holders to the Fair again this year, bringing in artists with the same level of expertise as our members, but who reside outside of our borders or have a craft that is not currently within our media categories,” says Carter. “They are juried into the event and bring additional fresh ideas and art for visitors to enjoy. For us, it’s a perfect blend of our traditional offerings and new featured items and artisans.”

Tickets for the Fair are available online at nhcrafts.org. Online ticket holders will experience a shorter time in line, and quick movement through the gates thanks to new ticket scanning equipment. The Fair will be open from 10AM – 5PM daily, rain or shine with shopping, demonstrations, and food available throughout the day. Ticket revenue helps the League support members by assisting in funding their efforts to learn marketing skills, continue to refine their craft and connect with the public.

The mission of the League of NH Craftsmen is to advance, cultivate and champion excellence in fine craft. The League pursues that mission through educational programming, leadership initiatives, marketplace strategies and support services. Through the League’s jury process, artists must demonstrate not only technical expertise, but also the “spirit of the maker” – that personal aspect of their work that shows everyone that a piece is theirs alone – that comes from years of experience as well as true artistic passion. For over 90 years, the nonprofit League has promoted fine craft, supported craftspeople, and educated and enriched New Hampshire’s communities. Visitors shop in our [Fine Craft Galleries](#) located across the state that feature outstanding hand-made craft and wide-ranging educational programs such as classes, demonstrations and workshops that are open to people of all ages and skill levels.

For more information about the League, becoming a juried member, and attending the Fair, visit nhcrafts.org.

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