



Coiled Pine-needle Basket Sculpture - Instructor Grace Swanson

In this class students will be introduced to pine-needle basket weaving. They will learn where to source materials. They will learn how to start and finish their basket, will learn several different stitches and how to add embellishments.

The project is a basket made from Long Leaf pine needles, using Crawford waxed Irish linen, an assortment of beads or other embellishments, starting with a stone center.

Topics to be covered:

- Differences between pine needle types
- Preparing the needles
- Waxed Irish linen
- Basket centers
- Embellishing your basket
- How to start and how to finish your basket

Each basket (or an art piece to hang on the wall) will be the creation of the artist. No two will be alike. We will start with a very simple project on the first night so that the artists will get the feel of the pine needles and know how to add beads. From this simple beginning they will begin to plan their basket. Of course things may change as they go along and the basket making may take them in new directions that they did not originally plan. That's the Fun!

A Materials Fee of \$49 will supply you with the prepared pine needles, center stone, thread and beads. Please bring either cash or check with you to camp.

Please bring:

scissors

small needle nose pliers (can share)

favorite beads (optional)

favorite embellishments (optional)

favorite starter (optional)

Growing up in Nigeria gave Grace a unique exposure to the creation of useful everyday items using the natural materials that were readily available. She received her Graphic Arts degree from SDSU, pursued a career as a graphic artist, and was a botanical watercolorist before discovering her passion for gourd and pine needle art.



"I love artwork that uses natural materials. It provides a break from the modern era, and creates a grounding sense of things past."

When I took early retirement, I started to paint. I painted in watercolor and acrylic for many, many years and sold through galleries and at outdoor shows -- until I discovered gourds. I have now stopped painting entirely, pursuing my obsession with gourd art. I wanted to learn about pine needle weaving so I could add them on top of my gourds, so I took classes and workshops to learn to weave.

I have discovered that I really enjoy the pine needle weaving -- which is called "coiling" -- and have made many wall hangings and baskets with different embellishments.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE MORE OF GRACE'S WORK](#)

