



FAQ for attendees at Western Pleasure Basket Retreat:

• Is this the LAST retreat at the Western Pleasure Basket Retreat with Jill Choate EVER?

Yes, we have decided to make this our last teaching event at the ranch for an intensive retreat experience.

• What happens if the retreat is mandated to cancel due to COVID-19?

Last year's retreat was cancelled due to gubernatorial dictate that closed down all gatherings around the state in Idaho. What happens if that is again what happens in Spring 2021? If the state dictates closure your \$550.00 and class fees will be refunded to you. The non-refundable \$200 to reserve your spot WILL NOT BE REFUNDED.

• What does the itinerary look like for retreat?

Thursday – classes begin at noon, the first meal for the day is dinner so please grab lunch before class starts.

Friday – breakfast at 8:00 AM, classes begin at 9:00 AM, break for lunch, classes resume at 1:00 PM and continue until 5:00, dinner begins at 6:00 PM

Saturday – breakfast at 8:00 AM, classes begin at 9:00 AM, break for lunch, classes resume at 1:00 PM and continue until 5:00, dinner begins at 6:00 PM (most students opt for trail rides, etc. on this day)

Sunday – breakfast at 8:00 AM, classes begin at 9:00 AM, retreat ends at noon, no lunch is served.

• Where should I fly into?

Spokane International Airport in Spokane, WA.

• Is transportation available from the Spokane International Airport to the Guest Ranch?

No, unfortunately there is no available transportation from the airport to the guest ranch. It's an easy 1-1/2 hour drive from Spokane International Airport on Hwy 90E to Coeur d'Alene, ID and from there north on Hwy 90 to Sandpoint. I'll send directions to the guest ranch in April.

• Should I come in a day early?

Many students opt to make travel arrangements to arrive in Spokane International Airport on Wednesday. There are several local hotels in the towns of Sandpoint and Ponderay (town just north of Sandpoint) to stay at on Wednesday evening (Best Western Edgewater, La Quinta, Quality Inn, Ruby's, Guest House International, Holiday Inn Express).

• Should I stay a day late?

Depending on the flight arrangements you can make out of Spokane to your destination and if you want to leave retreat early on Sunday will dictate whether you want to depart on Sunday. Remember retreat ends at noon on Sunday.

- *What about getting my tools to retreat?*
You can bring your tools with you on the plane as long as they are checked in your luggage. If you feel uncomfortable with this option you can always send them to me before retreat and I'll have them available for you then. PLEASE NOTE: it's a good idea to identify your tools in some manner (tape, initials, etc) so that your tools end up going home with you and not someone else.
- *How will I get my baskets home?*
I can ship your baskets home for you via USPS and charge a credit card when I know the postage or you can opt to take them into the UPS store for shipping in Sandpoint.
- *What about sign up for optional activities (trail rides, horse drawn wagons, massage)?*
You can sign up for and pay the ranch directly for any of the above optional activities upon arrival at retreat.
- *How many classes should I take?*
You may schedule up to 3 classes during retreat. The amount of classes selected depends on your skill level as a weaver, if you wish to participate in optional activities, and what the main reason for attending the retreat is. If your main reason to attend retreat is to be relaxed, enjoy the lodge, and learn some baskets, take less classes. In comparison, if your main reason is to tap into as much basket knowledge as possible take more classes.
- *Can I purchase a kit from the Jill Choate Basketry website and bring it to retreat to weave instead of purchasing a workshop class?*
No, when you attend retreat workshop fees include both materials and instruction. Please weave kits that you have otherwise purchased at a different venue.
- *What does the \$750 registration fee include?*
The registration fee includes accommodations and meals for 4 days and 3 nights beginning with DINNER on Thursday evening and ending with BREAKFAST on Sunday morning. A total of 3 breakfast, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners.
- *Can my husband attend?*
Yes, if your partner would like to attend retreat that is a possibility. We have 4 rooms inside the lodge that can accommodate couples and they are on a first come, first served basis with couples in mind. Husbands that have attended retreat in the past have gone fishing with guides on Lake Pend O'Reille and Priest Lake or hung out around the ranch and enjoyed the daily operations. The registration fee for husband's that attend is the same for participants (\$750 in 2020). Please note the \$750 registration fee is a PER PERSON fee. If your husband would like to attend classes those additional fees apply.
- *What if I'm a new basket maker and don't have the requested tools?*
Not to worry, you may purchase a tool set at retreat. Tool sets include basketry shears, awl, and weaverite tool. Buckets, spray bottles, and cloths to wipe reed will be provided. Please let me know prior to retreat if you'd like to purchase a tool kit.

- *Riding the pine pony*

After a couple of days of sitting in the Great Lodge's wooden chairs you may feel like you've been in the saddle for a while. Therefore, you may want to bring a pad of some kind to cushion your sit points while we weave away the hours at retreat.

- *How can I pay my registration and class fees?*

You can either send a check made out to JILL CHOATE and mail to PO Box 557, Moyie Springs, ID 83845 or use a credit card for an online purchase on the website:

<https://squareup.com/market/western-pleasure-basket-retreat>

If you opt to send a check please drop me a note via email and let me know it's on its way by postal service.

- *What happens if I have to cancel?*

If you have a cancellation before January 31, 2021 you will lose your \$200 non-refundable deposit. If you have paid any other fees before this deadline they will be reimbursed to you. If you have a cancellation after the January 31, 2021 no fees (including registration and/or class) will be reimbursed, transferred, rolled over, and or compensated in any way.