So Your Chapter Would Like To Host A Workshop?

By Carrie Martin
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My group of rug hooking friends wanted to experience a workshop with a teacher other than the one we saw weekly in her home. The stories from members, who went off to Star of Texas, Sauder Village, Ohio, and Green Mountain, Vermont, came home with enthusiasm and their tales were the envy of all.

One problem, many of our chapter members were in the workforce or had children or elderly parents that kept them close to home. When I was voted as Chapter President, the first item on my agenda was to start a workshop close to home and over a weekend so all members could participate. The idea met with some resistance from our local teacher at first, but we got the ball rolling and soon she was on board. This workshop lasted for years and made campers of many of our group.

A Nebraska group during their workshop which was held at private home. They hooked, laughed, learned and enjoyed the group event.

Steps To Take When Organizing Your Workshop:

Dates:
Pick a time of year that will allow as many members as possible to attend. Look for possible long weekends like Presidents Day or Memorial Day or others for your working members.

Location choices:
Hook all day and go home in the evenings:
This will depend on the size of your group and can be in a member's home, church fellowship hall or even a hotel meeting room.

Retreat rug camp:
When you will stay at a facility, be it a hotel, bed and breakfast or a conference center, this affords all day hooking and instruction as well as evening hooking hours. (Instructors however are not required to teach the entire time).

Instructor costs:
Class size:
Take a poll of members and vote on one or two instructors. Approximately 12-18 students are about the average size a teacher would want in the class.

Travel:
Their cost would be travel to and from the teacher's home to your location, so Google or map quest mileage and check airfare rates.

Accommodations:
Room and board will be required; many instructors are willing to stay in the home of a member. These members many times are allowed to attend the workshop at no cost, yet some instructors prefer to stay at a hotel.

Student fees:
Some instructors charge by the student which runs $25-$50 per day. Others prefer by day running $350-$500 per day.

A group from Texas, Lousiana and Illinois enjoyed a getaway held at a bed and breakfast. Many finished their projects and all enjoyed sightseeing in Historic Vicksburg, MS.

Hospitality:

Lunch and snacks need consideration whether catered, brown bag or set up by a committee being responsible for lunches. Breakfast snacks and munchies need some thought also. Often dinner is "on your own" and can be attended as a group or separate. Meals can be preplanned and paid with registration. Don't forget to factor food expenses into your budget.

Door prizes and or auction:

This is an option entirely up to the group. Door prizes may be donated by members or purchased. An auction of donated items could be used to offset the cost of your workshop, keeping in mind that everyone is looking for a good deal.

Budget:

Assemble a budget of estimated costs in each of the categories above. This number divided by the number of members to attend arrives at a *cost per student* for the workshop.

Whether your group has thought about hosting an instructor or just wishes to get away for uninterrupted hooking time, merely follow the steps above for an enjoyable event. This is perfect for starting a new project, resolving problems or completing something in progress.

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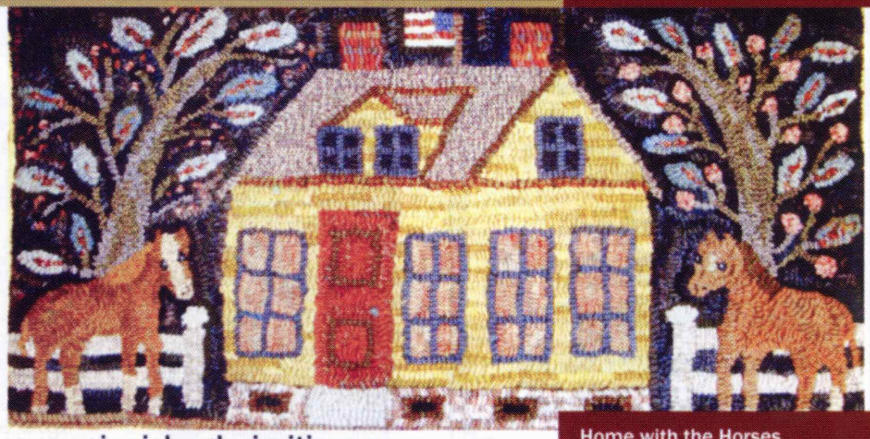
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