



NEWS RELEASE
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Live Free & Shop!
Follow the statewide League of NH Craftsmen's Fine Craft Gallery Trail
July 4 to July 14, 2013

--Get a free limited edition, handcrafted annual ornament and enter to win a \$250 gift certificate for the League of NH Craftsmen Retail Galleries--

CONCORD, NH – From July 4 through July 14, visitors are invited to shop for and learn how fine craft is made by following the League of NH Craftsmen's Fine Craft Gallery Trail. During this *Live Free & Shop* event, the League of NH Craftsmen Retail Galleries, located in Center Sandwich, Concord, Hanover, Littleton, Meredith, Nashua, and North Conway, will host fun and educational activities, including craft demonstrations, classes, special exhibits, and raffles. Fine craft sparkles at the retail galleries, where visitors can shop tax free for one-of-a-kind fine craft that is locally made. The retail galleries feature a wide selection of items at various price ranges including prints, photography, pottery, glass, table linens, wooden bowls, lamps and shades, furniture, ornaments, and sculpture, as well as wearable art, such as scarves, hats, handbags, and jewelry in new designs. Each piece is handmade by a juried member of the League of NH Craftsmen – a craftsperson whose work has met the League's high standards for fine craft skills and technique.

"Each piece has a story that reflects the vision, inspiration, and skill of its maker – a story that the public can appreciate and share with pride," says League of NH Craftsmen Executive Director Susie Lowe-Stockwell. "Customers can feel good knowing that they are contributing to the sustainability of our local businesses, and taking home a piece of fine craft that is beautiful, functional, and has lasting value."

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Passport Contest for Visitors

The best way to follow the League of NH Craftsmen Retail Gallery Fine Craft Trail is with a *Live Free & Shop* Passport. Passport holders who visit all seven retail galleries within the period of July 4 to July 14 will automatically receive the League's limited edition 2013 Annual Ornament, *Woven In Winter* by Alice Ogden (1 per family). In addition, each gallery you visit will enter your name into a drawing to win a \$250 gift certificate for use at any of the seven League of NH Craftsmen retail galleries. Passports are available for download from the *Live Free & Shop* web page, www.nhcrafts.org/livefreeshop, and the retail galleries. The Live Free & Shop web page also features itineraries for each retail gallery location with local activities and dining and lodging options.

Here is an overview of the special activities planned for this period:

Center Sandwich Retail Gallery, 32 Main Street: Beadweaving demonstration by juried member Deb Fairchild on Saturday, July 6 from 11 am to 3 pm; traditional fiber arts fair, featuring spinning, weaving, quilting and rug hooking on Saturday, July 13 on the Village Green in front of the retail gallery.

Concord Retail Gallery, 36 North Main Street: Several craft demonstrations during July; all visitors are automatically entered into a raffle for a beautiful handcrafted bracelet and earring set by juried member Ron Cravens.

Hanover Retail Gallery, 13 Lebanon Street: Special exhibition of work by Hanover's Craft Studies students and instructors throughout the month of July; demonstrations by jeweler Kerstin Nichols on July 6 from 2 pm to 4 pm and potter Sarah Heimann on July 13 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Littleton Retail Gallery, 81 Main Street: Jewelry demonstration on Saturday, July 13, from 11 am to 3 pm by Anee Sweet-McNamara, who uses "soutache" fine braid and bead embroidery to create her colorful and dramatic jewelry.

Meredith Retail Gallery, 279 Daniel Webster Highway: Several craft demonstrations each day by various artists, including Kathy Marx, paper mache artist, on Friday, July 5 from 11 am to 2 pm;

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Claire Renaud, who creates vessels from “cuir bouilli” (boiled leather), on Saturday, July 6 from 11 am to 2 pm; Jack Dokus, who uses lost wax casting to make sculptures and fine jewelry, on Monday, July 8 from 11 am to 2 pm; Chris Morse, who will demonstrate color etching on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 9 and 10; and Bob Dorr, who uses stumpwork embroidery to make jewelry, on Saturday, July 13 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Nashua Retail Gallery, 98 Main Street: Craft demonstrations and “TRY IT !” mini classes in basket making. Basketmaking activities will be held from 11 am to 4 pm on July 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, and 13 and a polymer clay demonstration on July 14 from 10 am-2 pm.

North Conway Retail Gallery, 2526 White Mountain Highway: Glassblowing demonstrations by Philip Jacobs from Thursday to Sunday between 10 am and 1 pm, and pottery demonstrations by Karissa Masse Jacobs from Monday to Wednesday between 10 am and 2 pm.

Visit www.nhcrafts.org/livefreeshop for the latest information and details.

About the League of NH Craftsmen

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is to encourage, nurture and promote the creation, use and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community.



The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship. The League of NH Craftsmen is supported in part by grants from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information about the Live Free & Shop event, visit www.nhcrafts.org/livefreeshop.

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