

A few important notes



Look at the photographs of the projects and updates on the web at www.kitemakers.org. Photographs in the class descriptions document are not to scale relative to each other.

We want everyone to have a great experience. If you have questions about your ability to handle a class, please read our skill level ratings on the Skill Level Information Sheet.

Once you secure a place on a class list, you've committed to taking that class. In fairness to the instructor, it is expected that you will reimburse him or her for materials purchased and prepared for you, even if you don't participate in the class.

Class materials fees may be paid for with cash (small bills & exact amount appreciated). **Please, no checks.**

Are you wondering what "sewing machine and supplies" refers to? Here is some help...

"Sewing machine" means a working, well-tuned sewing machine complete with foot control, power cord, needles and bobbins and bobbin case. It is, of course, best to be familiar with your machine. If not, try Gerry's class on Friday to help solve that dilemma. Before her class, please know how to wind a bobbin and thread your machine. Whether you sign up for Gerry's class or not, tuck your instruction book in with the machine. Don't leave home without it is always a good rule!

"Supplies" refers to the sewing related supplies we normally use at home when making a kite. Sewing your kite skin? Then these supplies can include extra machine needles, extra bobbins, a seam ripper, Scotch tape, double sided tape, seam ripper, needle threader, seam gauge, scissors for trimming threads, scissors for appliqué, beeswax, assorted colors of good thread plus black & white, etc. When you are done sewing, you may be happy to have brought a straight edge, cutting tools for fabric and rods and appropriate cutting surfaces, hot knife or hot pen, Super Glue and accelerant. **Nearly every teacher has suggested we ask their students to bring high quality thread and a freestanding light.** A pencil and notebook plus a camera are always good to have with you, too. So are an extension cord & multiple outlet strip. Does the description indicate a possibility of making copies of the instructor's templates? If so, bring a roll of wide paper to trace those templates. It is a wonderful opportunity to build another kite at home and not have to draft your own pattern. Is this the whole list; is this everything? NO! Do you have to bring absolutely everything listed here? NO! Bring what you use at home, what you think you may use, maybe even what you think you should leave at home.

A special note for those participants who need to fly into Seattle... We know it is hard to bring all your supplies plus a sewing machine. Think about packing your supplies and *borrowing* a machine for the weekend. Many participants have spare machines. Ask us for help if this is the only reason you are not attending! Or come try us out and take the non-sewing classes we offer.

Skill Level Information

Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference

Using and Understanding our Class Skill Levels

The classes offered at Fort Worden fall into the following three skill level categories: Beginner, Intermediate, and Experienced. There is considerable overlap among all these categories. There is no clear line or simple test that can be used to determine your kitemaking experience level. Even if a class is shown as a “no-sew” class, don’t assume it is a simple beginner kite. Some are and some aren’t. If you have questions about whether or not you should take a particular class, please email the teacher and discuss it or send your question to the [conference registrar](#) and your question will be passed along to the teacher. The teacher who designed the class will know what skills are needed. Above all, be honest with yourself. We wouldn’t want you to go home disappointed, with a project you haven’t finished—and possibly won’t ever finish.

These classifications are for your benefit. To make the best use of them, think of them this way:

Beginner:

I am a beginner if I have never made a cloth kite before. I may have never used a sewing machine either—or at least not enough to be comfortable with it. The first thing I should sign up for is Gerry Pennell’s beginning sewing class. This will give me a big boost on the way to being an accomplished kite sewer. I should look through the list of classes offered for beginners—there will be plenty to choose from. Since Gerry’s class is normally held on Friday morning, I may be ready to take something a bit more advanced the next day or even that afternoon.

Please note: Nobody is going to say “no—you can’t take that class.” However, if you choose a class that is too far beyond your experience level, you probably won’t have a good time. We want you to have a good time!

Intermediate:

I am intermediate if I can sew reasonably well. Have I taken Gerry’s class? You bet! I haven’t made many kites yet, but I have developed some skills and am ready to move on. Most of us may fit into this category. Even if I have never made a kite before, but I am an accomplished sewer and I may be comfortable in one of these classes. I’ll ask the teacher via an email!

Experienced:

I am experienced if I have made lots of kites and my sewing skills are well developed. Now I am looking for a challenge, and to learn different and advanced skills and techniques.