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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WHC introduces three new ways to connect with history in the Mid-Willamette Valley**

Salem, OR- The Willamette Heritage Center is proud to announce three new class series—Urban Homesteaders, Textile Arts, and Fleece to Fiber for Kids—providing Willamette Valley residents opportunities to learn skills and traditions from the past. Courses are already underway, running monthly from February to November, and are led by knowledgeable instructors at our historic facility.

### **Series Details:**

**Urban Homesteaders:** This series is meant to bring the skills and traditions of the frontier to urban homes. Participants can learn to blacksmith, brew beer, keep bees, and more, and take this knowledge home to their own backyards. These workshops are offered for adults 18 and over, and require pre-registration. Presented by O'Neill Pine Company.



**Textile Arts:** A natural fit for the WHC, this series provides adults with opportunities to learn to knit, sew, dye fabric, and other textile arts. Our instructors will make sure participants receive all the correct knowledge to get started right, and will make them want to continue learning and practicing their new skill.

**Fleece to Fiber for Kids:** Meant to engage youth in history and traditions passed, Fleece to Fiber lets children learn unique textile arts they can continue using long after the class has ended. This series is for children 10 years and older only.

### **General Information:**

Each course requires pre-registration through our website, along with a registration fee.

*Urban Homesteaders* and *Textile Arts* courses are \$45 for members, \$50 for non-members, and \$40 when signing up for three or more classes at once.

*Fleece to Fiber for Kids* courses are \$25.

### **Current Schedule:**

March 5<sup>th</sup> - *Urban Homesteaders*: Basic Blacksmithing (FULL)

*Textile Arts*: Knitting for Newbies

March 19<sup>th</sup> - *Fleece to Fiber for Kids*: Inkle Loom Weaving

April 16<sup>th</sup> - *Textile Arts*: Color Play with Cotton

*Fleece to Fiber for Kids*: Upcycled Wool Slippers

April 23<sup>rd</sup> - *Urban Homesteaders*: Backyard Chickens

May 21<sup>st</sup> - *Urban Homesteaders*: Papercrete Garden Art

*Textile Arts*: Instant Indigo

*Fleece to Fiber for Kids*: Knitting Jennies & Stick Weaving

\*Our schedule is regularly updated as class details are established. For the most current listings, visit [www.willametteheritage.org/classes-workshops/](http://www.willametteheritage.org/classes-workshops/).

For more details or photos, please contact [Jenna Wyatt](#).

### **About the Willamette Heritage Center:**

The Willamette Heritage Center connects generations by preserving and interpreting the history of the Mid-Willamette Valley. The fourteen historic structures on site house permanent and changing exhibits, a research library and archive, textile learning center, and rentable event spaces. The five-acre campus is also home to a café, retail shops, art galleries, cooperative artist studios, and offices run by our partner organizations.

Early settlement buildings take visitors back to the 1840s, when Euro-American missionaries and immigrants settled in the Mid-Willamette Valley, home of the Kalapuya. The 1841 Jason Lee House and Methodist Parsonage are the oldest standing wooden frame houses in the Pacific Northwest, featured along with the John D. Boon House (1847) and Pleasant Grove Church (1854), built by Oregon Trail immigrants. The 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, a National Park Service-designated American Treasure, vividly tells the story of industrialization in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Experience work and life in what was once a leading textile factory in Oregon, the legacy of which is continued today by Pendleton Woolen Mills. Changing exhibitions at the Willamette Heritage Center explore and highlight the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Mid-Willamette Valley.

The Willamette Heritage Center (WHC) is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed from the merger of the Mission Mill Museum and the Marion County Historical Society. It continues their legacy through a mission to preserve and interpret the history of the Mid-Willamette Valley. WHC promotes diversity and prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national/ethnic origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran/uniform status, and all other classifications protected by law. WHC is not owned or operated by any government agency and is supported through grant funding, private donations, business operations, and its membership. To become a member, visit <http://willametteheritage.org/membership.html>.

