

***Beginning Navajo Weaving workshop with Sarah H. Natani.  
August 9-13, 2010 Black Forest, Colorado***

The workshop will promise to deliver a fun, educational course in Navajo weaving that will give each student an insight of what it is to be a Navajo weaver. The introductory course will offer students to learn from nationally acclaimed weaver Sarah H. Natani. Sarah has taught weaving for over 41 years to the fiber arts community across the United States and abroad. Her workshops are filled with stories of how the Navajo deity, Spider Woman taught weaving to the people. Navajo weaving etiquettes and many personal stories of her life as a weaver.

The introductory course will teach each student how to warp a loom large enough to complete in a week. The students will learn how to weave stripes and a design using the vertical interlock method as well as understanding the function of the side string. A demonstration of how to card wool using the hand carders and how to spin wool using the Navajo lap spindle will be included. The workshop will include a wool dyeing segment with plants found on the Navajo Nation. Throughout the week, the workshop will include discussions on topics such as Navajo regional designs, Natural plant dyes, Dynamics of spinning wool using the "S" and "Z" twist, Spinning Navajo 3-ply method, Navajo Twill Weavings, Navajo Creation Stories and personal stories of the Natani family.

Tuition per student: \$375.00

Lab Fee per student: \$75.00

\*If students can not purchase a batten, comb and wool, instructor can provide material for \$50.00 extra.

Total: \$450.00 p/student

Deposit p/student \$200.00

Deposits will not be refunded after 30 days of receipt.

Remainder of \$175.00 will be paid to instructor on first day of workshop

Classes will begin daily at 9am to 4pm, five days with an hour lunch break.

Looms may be rented from your local weaving shop, Weaver's Guild or build your own. The Navajo Loom is simply constructed. Loom plans will be provided.

Sign Up Information and registration for this workshop will be coordinated by Deb Greer. Please call or email Deb to make your reservation no later than July 15, 2010. Low impact Camping may be available with limited services. Talk to Deb for information. Lab Fee may not apply to returning students.

Contact: Debra Greer  
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Peyton, CO 80831  
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**Sarah H. Natani**  
**Navajo Weaving Syllabus**

**Day One: “The Loom”**

The day will begin with the creation story of how Navajo Weaving came to the “Dineh People”. The creation story will include symbolism, etiquette, and religious ties to weaving.

Warping

Dressing the Loom with the warp, side string, heddle stick and shed stick

Discussion of regional Navajo weaving patterns (Two Grey Hill, Storm Pattern, Crystal, etc.)

**Day Two: “Weaving”**

Discussion of the “function” of the side string

Begin weaving stripes and vertical design using the interlock method.

**Day Three: “Continue Weaving”...**

Weaving

Demonstration on carding and spinning wool Navajo style

**Day Four: “Continue Weaving”...**

Discussion of Plant Dyes

Wool dyeing

**Day Five: “Finish your weavings”**

Weave

Demonstration on the “finishing process” of weaving

Last minute questions and clarifications, etc.

**Material Provided by the instructor for a lab fee: \$75.00**

Weaving Handbook

Warp

Side edge cord

Raw wool for carding and spinning

Dye plants and mordant

Sample skeins for dyeing wool

1 sacking needle

**Students are required to bring these materials:**

1 medium batten (18” long)

1 medium weaving comb (1 ½ “ wide)

3 skeins of wool to weave with (medium weight)

Two 3/8” dowels for shed and heddle stick each 36” long

3 dowels for mounting warp to the loom, (1” x 36” long)

One 6 feet long cotton clothesline rope

1 Navajo loom (30” x 38”)

Pillow to sit on floor, Note book with graph paper, scissors, pencil

1 cotton postal twine

1 Navajo Lap Spindle if you want to try your hands at spinning wool the Navajo way (optional)

1 pair of hand carders if you plan on carding wool in the future (optional)