

Invitation to Schedule and News from North House!

FALL/WINTER CATALOG: Please contact me at your earliest convenience to schedule your courses through June of 2017. The deadline for scheduling is **August 12**. There is a week or two after this date to tweak and finalize courses, but the process needs to be underway. Note, I will be working with our new communications manager to complete this catalog, so the less last-minute things can be the better, since there will be a learning curve for this person. New coursework proposals are always welcome. Note, I'll be paddling in the BWCAW July 11-18, so call me after that. ☺

Scheduling Trends 2016

The year is half over and it's time to look into the crystal ball and try to glean what we can from scheduling trends.

2016 has been a record setting year again in terms of **Student Days**. A student day counts the number of days a student is in class (so one student in a ten day course and ten students in a one day course both equal 10 student days). Increasing the number of student days rather than just the overall number of students tells us that students are staying longer on campus, a good thing for everyone!

Our **make rate** for 2016 thus far at 79%, which is right on track of where we finished 2015, our best year ever. The make rate measures the number of courses that we offer versus the number of courses that we host. As we all know, cancellations are no fun for anyone, so this is an important way for us to help you think about how best to position courses for success.

We are continuing to work towards **alignment of course start days**, so that students can experience a larger community while on campus when multiple courses start at the same time. This means reaching back into the week, including Wed and Thursdays as active days on campus. Success here is incremental, but moving in the right direction.

Changes on Campus! Two New Classroom Spaces: Through the gargantuan efforts of many, many volunteers, interns and local contractors, we have made the shift and Blue has become Yellow: the school store is now in the Yellow Building! Intern Elizabeth Belz did a great blog post about the process: check it out here: <http://nhfs.blogspot.com>.

As a result, we have two new spaces available as classrooms: the **North classroom**, located in the new Administrative Building and **Blue North**, which is the space that used to be the store. While we are still tweaking lighting, set up and other nuances of these classrooms, we hope that they will be inspiring places for students and instructors to teach and learn. Feel free to share your ideas with us.

The movement of the school store also means a few other systems have changed.

Check-ins and Welcomes: Students will check in for class at the Yellow Building. Most course welcomes will still happen in Blue or your classroom. Please ask at the store where to meet for the Welcome session.

Key System: If you need to pick up or drop off keys after hours, they will be available in the catalog box in front of the Yellow House...but wait! There's an extra step: the keys will now be hidden beneath the wooden insert on the left of the box. Simply lift the lid, grab insert and lift to reveal the key hidden below. This is to add an extra layer of "security" now that the box is so much more visible.

Student Commons: The gathering place for students to eat lunch, hang out and visit around the coffee pot remains in the Blue Building. We still find plenty of reason to poke our noses in to say hello, so please encourage your students to use that space!

Last Minute Cancellations: It is always a bummer, but we do occasionally have students cancel at the very last minute, just hours or days before a course. Our cancellation policy is that students who cancel with less than 3 weeks notice do not receive a refund of any monies paid. However, in many cases students cancel due to family emergencies or illness and we often refund their tuition in the form of a gift certificate. In the case that a last minute cancellation, North House will compensate the instructor as if the minimum were enrolled in the course. If you have purchased or prepared materials that you need to be reimbursed for due to a last minute cancellation, please let us know. We will do our very best to communicate these late cancellations to you in a timely manner, but feel free to check in with the office for your course numbers whenever you want.

Points North Auction

Tell the story of craft and help raise funds for North House's mission! We are currently gathering items for our online Points North Auction taking place during Unplugged. Please consider donating a unique item or mini-course experience that shares your craft with folks who are passionate about North House! Thanks to instructors who jumped in last year, whose contributions included:

- Saami Inspired Necklace on Reindeer Leather by Liz Bucheit
- Handcrafted Willow Basket with Side Handle by Emily Derke
- Fedora Hat Woven by Tina Fung Holder
- Culinary Adventure for 6 with Scott Graden
- Micro-Home Tour and Personalized Consultation with Mark Hansen
- Handspun and Hand-Dyed 100% Wool Yarn Variety Pack from Allen Holzhueter
- Birch Bark Basket Spiraled with Spines by Julie Kean
- Giclee Print by Photographer Layne Kennedy: "Superior Storm"
- Leather Market Tote by Candace LaCrosse of Hemlocks Leatherworks
- Sausage Making Class for up to Four with Craig & Dianne Peterson
- Hand-Turned Large Cherry Burl Bowl by Lou Pignolet

- Scandinavian Flat Plane Carving One-on-one Tutorial with Harley Refsal
- Springtime Birding for 4 with Naturalist with Ann Russ
- One-on-one Woodworking Experience with Mike Schelmeske
- Monet-Inspired Nalbound Infinity Scarf by Larry Schmitt
- Make Your Own Chocolate Truffles with Chef Rob Wells
- Original Prints and Fresh Garlic by Mother-Daughter Artists Jeanne and Olya Wright

Hopefully their contributions will inspire you to join the fun to help support North House's educational efforts! Questions? Contact Kaitlyn Bohlin for more info at kbohlin@northhouse.org.

ANNUAL INSTRUCTOR RETREAT: MARK YOUR CALENDARS: April 7-8-9! Per our discussion at the last retreat, we will start on Friday morning and end Sunday before noon. Advance tuition-free coursework will happen April 4-5-6. North House will provide lodging and some meals, travel stipend by request. More details soon.