

# Laurie Cross



## Mission Statement:

*I believe art is important because it is enjoyable for students, and it encourages critical thinking and inventiveness while building self-esteem. It also gives a voice to students' thoughts and ideas. All forms of art are connected to some culture, and learning about these art forms introduces the student to many things about these cultures, promoting acceptance and interest in people unlike ourselves.*

## Grades Served:

K-12, Adult

## Lives In:

near White Salmon, WA

## Homestay:

Not required

## The Ancient Art of Basket-Making / Multicultural Arts & Crafts

Using a variety of materials, students will develop skills in one or more art forms, connecting the art with multicultural studies and indigenous cultures. Inclusion of legends or music during some projects will increase understanding and appreciation for other cultures. The use of plants as materials in some projects will stimulate a discussion of respect for nature. Discussion about the uses of the objects in the culture, as well as viewing traditional art items, will promote an awareness and appreciation of the importance of the art in that culture. Many options are available, including a variety of Basketry projects, Dreamcatchers, Huichol Yarn Art, Charm Bags, Latin American art forms, etc. Projects can be designed to fit the needs of each school program. A packet of information and resources will be provided for classroom teachers.

## Workshops for Teachers

Basic Basket-Making, Introduction to Dreamcatchers, Basketry Projects for Children, Multicultural Art Projects for Children, Basket-Making with Foraged Plants, Fabric Dyeing Techniques, Videos and Slide Shows on Traditional and Indigenous Techniques and Art Forms.

## Residency Requirements

Different art forms have different room requirements and materials costs. It is helpful to have a separate room with warm water nearby for some projects, but many projects can be moved from room to room. Assistance of classroom teacher and other adult volunteers usually is necessary.

## About the Artist...

Laurie Cross taught elementary school for several years. She has a BA in Fine Arts for Elementary Education and a minor in Anthropology. She has taught art to both children and adults for more than 30 years, and presently teaches art classes through art centers and other programs, as well as privately. Laurie is a strong supporter of hands-on learning, appreciation for indigenous and foreign cultures, and respect for nature. She sells her baskets and other art locally, and participates in several art shows each year. Recently, one basket received Honorable Mention in a show, and another basket was included in a book published by Washington State University.

