

The Center is an artist's paradise

The Appalachian Center for Craft, located at 1560 Craft Center Drive, sits on over 500 wooded acres overlooking Center Hill Lake. The facility was built in 1979, and exceeds 87,000 square feet of spacious studios, gallery, exhibitions, administrative offices, library, cafe, student housing and meeting/audio visual rooms. It is a satellite campus of Tennessee Tech University's nationally accredited School of Art, Craft and Design.

The Appalachian Center offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degree concentrations in clay, fibers, glass, metals and wood, as well as a non-degree Craft Certificate option in those studies. The Center promotes excellence in American craft by teaching tradition and innovation in technique, concept and design, providing access to the highest quality craft education, professional artists and career opportunities.

The Center also features an Artist in Residence program, which allows emerging professional craft artists to live and work in the environment of the Craft Center. The Resident Artists provide additional academic support and experience to students in the BFA and Certificate programs.

There is an on-campus gallery, which features contemporary and traditional fine craft by Craft Center artists and over 100 nationally recognized craft artists. The 2,700-square-foot gallery hosts as many as 20 exhibitions annually in its four exhibitions spaces. Shows include the works of regional, national and international contemporary craft artists, faculty, resident artists and students.



The gallery features hand-forged fireplace utensils, candleholders, coat hooks and sculpture; functional, decorative, and sculptural ceramics; woven, hand-dyed, and sewn textiles; hand blown and cast glass vessels and sculpture; jewelry for men and women; functional and sculptural lathe-turned wood; hand-crafted furniture; handmade soaps, lotions, and lip balms; and artisanal chocolates and candies, all for sale.

The gallery is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, 12 - 5 p.m. For more information call the Center at (615) 597-6803, or visit <https://www.tntech.edu/craftcenter/>.

More than 50 hands-on craft workshops are offered annually in the craft studios as well. Workshops are available for beginners to studio professionals, and they provide several educational outreach pro-

grams for regional students including Summer High School Art Intensives, Exploring Careers in Fine Craft for High School Students, and more.

One-day workshops are available during the spring and fall, and weekend and week-long workshops are offered throughout the summer. Anyone 18 years of age and older may enroll in a workshop. Pre-registration is required for all workshops. Nationally known artists lead the workshops in professionally-equipped studios. They host up to 25 exhibitions each year, featuring regional, national and international contemporary craft artists, their faculty, resident artists and students.

Visit <https://www.tntech.edu/craftcenter/workshops/> to find complete information on hours, discounts, skill levels, fees, and room and board,

and to register for one-day and summer workshops. Gift certificates are available for all workshops. For details, email Gail Gentry at gentry@tnstate.edu.

Tours of the Craft Center are available for groups of up to 10 with advanced reservations on Fridays between 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Prospective students with an interest in a B.F.A. degree in one of the craft concentrations can schedule a tour Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 615.597.6801 or 931.372.6897, to arrange your tour.

The facility is located near Hurricane Bridge off Highway 56.

From Interstate 40: From I-40 take Exit 273 (Smithville/McMinnville), go south on Hwy 56 for approximately 6 miles. After crossing Hurricane Bridge over Center Hill

Lake/Caney Fork River take an immediate left at the Craft Center sign. This drive leads to the Craft Center parking lot and facility.

From Hwy 70: From the intersection of Hwy 70 and Hwy 56 in Smithville; turn left onto Hwy 56 and travel approximately 8 miles. Take a right turn at the Craft Center sign before crossing the Hurricane Bridge. Follow the drive to the parking lot and facility.

From Hwy 111: Exit Hwy 111 onto Hwy 70 (near Sparta) and travel west to Smithville. At the intersection of Hwy 70 and Hwy 56 turn right onto Hwy 56 and travel approximately 8 miles. Take a right turn at the Craft Center sign before crossing the Hurricane Bridge. Follow the drive to the parking lot and facility.