FAQ - Samish Island Art Retreat

Q. Do you have to be an NWWS member or painter to attend?
No, and no. All creatives and makers are welcome. We have had knitters, quilters, collage artists, and coloring book enthusiasts. Most campers are painters, but everyone is welcome to bring their favorite medium or several mediums. Bring your possibilities.

Q. What do I do when I arrive?
You'll see the lodge straight ahead when you arrive. Park, go inside and there will be a greeting able where we'll get to meet you and you'll get your cabin assignment. Find a table and bring in your art supplies first, then drive to your cabin and unload those supplies. There is designated parking areas and someone will point you toward that area. Pro tip: pack your car so art supplies are first off.

We wear name tags everyday so it is easy to strike up conversations. Bring one if you have one, or find one at the greeting table.

Q. Where does everyone paint?
Either in the main lodge or outdoors, where plein air artists will find 80 acres of beauty.
The main lodge can accommodates everyone. Most set up their space on the main level. 8' tables are shared by two people. There is plenty of space to feel like you have elbow room. The lower level of the building is a favorite place for artists who may want to spread out or want to be around fewer people and have a quieter space. The property is beautiful, so cooperative weather always finds artists painting outdoors.

Bring a tarp or something to protect the floor underneath your art space and a cover for the table. Good ideas: additional lighting, extension cord, and power strip. Chairs are provided, but additional chair cushions are common. Some artists bring their own chair.

Q. When time does camp begin and end?
Typically, 2:00 on both days. Sometimes it moves a bit this way or that, but 2:00 is standard.

Q. What time are meals served?
Usually 8:30, 12:30, and 5:30, but schedules sometimes change per chef.

Q. What if I don't know anyone?
A. "Newbie" jitters won't last long. You'll feel right at home quickly and find campers excited to welcome you and get to know you. We create, circulate, share, and chat. Such great campers!

Q. What is the cancellation policy?

- If you cancel at least 14 days before the event, the refund will be your registration amount less $50.00 bank/processing fees.
- If you cancel within 14 days of the event, the refund will be your registration amount less $100.00 bank/processing fees.
- If you cancel within 14 days because of a medical emergency, you will receive your registration amount less $50.00 bank/processing fees.
- If you are attending camp and leave early, there is no refund.
- If you accidentally double register or require a refund due to your own error, $50.00 will be deducted from the reimbursement amount.
- All reimbursements should allow 30 days to receive the amount due.
- Registration fees cannot roll-over to future camps. You will need to register again for upcoming camps.

Q. What about special dietary needs?

The camp can accommodate four special dietary classes, including gluten free, vegetarian, vegan, and dairy free and you will note this on the registration form. If you have other needs, there is a small refrigerator and microwave in the lodge and you may store other food there. No food is allowed in the cabins (attractive to pests).

Q. Are the beds comfortable?

Beds in the E-cabins and beds in the renovated Vintage cabins have foam mattresses. The reviews have been great; however, if you're unsure, you might bring an extra topper. The heaters work really well, but if you like a cooler sleeping space, bring plenty of covers. Your favorite pillow will make your bed heavenly. If you are staying in an un-renovated Vintage cabin, bring enough support to add to the mattress so that you'll get the good night's rest that you deserve. Renovations are ongoing.

Q. What is a good middle-of-the-night strategy for vintage cabin dwellers with a need?

A. For those who need a mid-night facility, you may either leave your cabin and go to the restroom, or bring a container to use at night and empty at the restroom the next morning. We have campers who have been coming for years who always choose a vintage cabin. They either have a simple solution such as a dedicated cup or have a solution such as a camping toilet that you can purchase online.

Q. Who cleans the cabins?

Each camper is expected to leave the cabin in clean condition for the next guest. This means sweeping and other light cleaning. "E" cabins have the shared bath and the light cleaning that is needed is shared between the inhabitants of the two bedrooms. It is all easy. Supplies provided. Alternatively, occupants in the E-

cabins can pay $25.00 (single occupancy) or $35.00 (double occupancy) to have an outside service do the cleaning. Bring cash or check for that service.

Q. Do I need any cash?
Possibly. We collect voluntary cash donations for the kitchen staff to say "thank you". The closest ATM is a few miles away at a bar in the small town of Bow.

Q. Is coffee/tea available?
Yes, 24/7 in the main lodge. Coffee, decaf, and a variety of teas and sweeteners are always available. Some bring a favorite mug. There is an ice machine and small refrigerator in the lodge.

Q. What is the closest town?
Edison is a few miles away, where you'll find several bars, restaurants, a gift shop or two, and a terrific bakery that you should not miss. There is no grocery or gas station. The closest art supply store is about 1/2 hour away.

Q. Is there wifi?
A. Yes, and most of the time it works pretty well. Typical high use hours or distance from the main lodge can have a negative effect.

Q. Is there an EV plug?
No

Q. Are there places to go walking?
A. Yes, there are plenty of places to walk, explore, contemplate, or paint plein aire on the large grounds. The lodge overlooks a small lake that is a perfect size for stretching your legs.

See you there!