



## **SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Affiliated with National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, U.S.A., Associated Country Women of the World and in partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service  
SCFCL website: <http://www.scfcl.com>

### **Leader Training Guide**

#### **With These Hands: Heritage Skills**

##### **Objectives**

- Increase awareness of the importance of heritage skills and of passing these skills on to future generations.
- Increase awareness of places to learn and/or observe heritage skills.
- Increase participation in the local and state Heritage Skills Competition.  
(Note: Conduct lesson prior to FCL State Conference in the fall).

##### **Lesson Introduction**

For much of our country's history, making things by hand—food, clothing, furnishings, tools, art, amusements--was the norm, and the skills needed for making these items were passed from one generation to the next. While hand-crafting these and other items is no longer a necessity for most people, the thrill and sense of personal satisfaction in making something may be greater.

Yet there are crafts that form part of our cultural heritage which are in real danger of dying out. The skills and techniques required are known by only a few, in some cases only one, as craftspeople become older and retire from their work. Fewer and fewer of the younger generations are willing and able to continue practicing and teaching these heritage skills.

##### **Lesson: Planning, Learning, Observing, Demonstrating Heritage Skills**

###### **A. Plan to visit local institutions and festivals that showcase heritage skills.**

(leader may challenge group to provide additional examples.)

Museums:

- Agricultural Heritage Museum in Blackville
- Cotton Museum in Bishopville
- McKissick Museum in Columbia
- South Carolina Artisans Center in Walterboro

Festivals:

- Annual Heritage Days at the Depot in Belton
- Atalaya Arts and Crafts Festival at Huntington Beach State Park in Murrells Inlet
- Spring Jubilee in Pendleton
- Summerfest in York
- Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Festival in Mount Pleasant

Other

- John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC
- Living History Park in North Augusta

## South Carolina Heritage Corridor

### ***B. LEARNING* Heritage Skills at the John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC**

In the Carolinas, there are numerous venues for learning heritage skills. Possibly the oldest is the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina, established in 1925.

The Campbell Folk School began as a collaboration of two progressive educators (Olive Dame Campbell and Marguerite Butler) and an Appalachian community, Brasstown, N.C. The School offers a unique combination of rich history, beautiful mountain surroundings, and an atmosphere of living and learning together. Tucked in the beautiful western North Carolina mountains, the School offers weeklong and weekend classes year-round for adults in craft, art, music, dance, cooking, gardening, nature studies, photography and writing.

Programs & Classes - offer adults more than 800 weeklong and weekend classes year-round in traditional and contemporary craft, art, music, dance, cooking, gardening, nature studies, photography and writing. Friendly, knowledgeable instructors teach small classes.

Craft Shop - reflects the rich heritage of the Appalachian region and the talented artisans who live and work locally and regionally. Representing over 300 craftspeople, it offers everything from decorative jewelry to functional fireplace poker sets, handcrafted pottery, turned wood bowls, and fiber creations like scarves and table linens. The Craft Shop is also proud to be the home of the Brasstown Carvers.

Concert Series – the free Friday night concert series features regional and national acts performing old-time, bluegrass, folk, gospel and Celtic music.

Community Dances – are usually held on alternate Saturday evenings and include contra and square dancing to live music.

History Center - traces the history of the Folk School, provides an overview of Appalachian culture, houses a collection of handcrafted objects, old documents, letters, and photographs – including those of famed photographer Doris Ulmann.

Nature Trails meander the 300-acre campus, including the Rivercane Walk, a creekside trail with art honoring the Cherokee heritage of the Appalachian area.

Visitors are welcome to explore the campus during daylight hours in free, self-directed tours.

John C. Campbell Folk School  
One Folk School Road  
Brasstown, NC 28902  
1-800.FOLK.SCH (365.5724)  
828.837.2775 • (fax) 828.837.8637  
[www.folkschool.org](http://www.folkschool.org)

### **C. OBSERVING Heritage Skills at the South Carolina Artisans Center**

The South Carolina Artisans Center, in Walterboro, is the state's official folk art and craft center and is home to the state's most talented artists and artisans. Whether the medium is clay, metal, glass, wood fiber or film, more than 250 juried artists guarantee work of exceptional quality. Favorite arts include unique garden sculptures, loomed shawls, hand-made jewelry, photography and sweet grass baskets.

The South Carolina Artisans Center's mission is to interpret, market, preserve, and perpetuate the folk art and fine craftsmanship of South Carolina Artisans while creating a better understanding of the state's rich and diverse cultural heritage. Every third Saturday of the month the center offers Handmade: A Celebration of the Elements of Craft. Live demonstrations are given from 1-3 p.m. While in Walterboro, visit the charming antiques shops, gift shops, restaurants and waterfall on main street, one block over from the Artisans Center.

The South Carolina Artisans Center  
318 Wichman Street  
Walterboro, SC, 29488  
843-549-0111  
[www.scartisanscenter.com](http://www.scartisanscenter.com)

### **D. DEMONSTRATING Heritage Skills at the SCFCL Heritage Skills Competition**

Each year a Heritage Skills exhibit and competition is held at the SCFCL State Conference. The rules/guidelines as stated in the SCFCL Bylaws are as follows. (Check for revisions prior to presenting this lesson. Note: In recent years, a category for canned goods has been included).

#### **SECTION XVIII - HERITAGE SKILLS**

- A.** Counties may submit items for heritage skills in the following categories:  
Hand Needlework, Machine Sewing, Ceramics, Quilts, Miscellaneous
- B.** Each county is limited to three heritage skill entries.
- C.** Counties may exhibit items all in one category or place them in different categories.
- D.** Each entry should be labeled with category, county and contact person.
- E.** Heritage skills entries will be judged by secret ballots at the Annual conference.
- F.** First, second, third and overall winner will be announced to membership and displayed before close of conference.

#### **Lesson Summary**

Lifestyles, relationships and traditions have changed dramatically in the last century. Rural life, no longer isolated, is part of a global life that is increasingly interdependent. But the individual expression and social interaction that are encouraged through heritage skills such as crafts, music, nature studies, gardening, cooking and dance are still meaningful to people today, regardless of where they live. Some of the materials, tools, and motivations for these traditional arts have changed, but the satisfaction of developing and practicing such skills are useful correctives to the hard-driven regimentation of much of today's world.

## **Suggested Activities**

1. **Show and Tell** At your meeting the previous month, invite members to bring to the next meeting one or more samples of heritage skills made by them or someone in their families. At your meeting, ask members to take turns showing the items, telling who made them and, if known, where they learned the skill.
2. **When I Was Young** Distribute note cards and ask members to list heritage skills they remember seeing parents or others engaged in when they were young. Go around the room and let each member tell who made what and why. Were they luxuries or necessities? Were they used personally or sold? Were they displayed or saved for later? Use a flip chart or poster board, if available to list the skills mentioned.
3. **Heritage Craft Challenges** Ask: Do you have a heritage skill that you could pass along to a youngster? What is it and who could you teach it to? Ask: “Do you have an item, hand-crafted by you, that you would be willing to enter into the Heritage Skills Competition?” Then review the categories for the local and state competitions.
4. **Tomorrow’s Heritage Skills** Ask: What are some modern skills that someday could be considered “heritage” skills? (Examples: hydroponic gardening, wire jewelry).
5. **Road Trip!** Plan a day-trip for your club to visit the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C., the South Carolina Artisans Center in Walterboro or one of the other heritage skills sites identified during the lesson.

## **Suggested Materials**

“Show & Tell” items, flip chart or poster board, markers, pens, basket for drawing, note cards, Order a free course catalogue from the John C. Campbell Folk School, [www.folkschool.org](http://www.folkschool.org).

**Lesson Prepared by** Marilyn Peters, Clemson Extension Agent, retired.

**Lesson Reviewed by** Dr. Susan Barefoot, Extension Program Team Leader for Food Safety & Nutrition, Clemson University

## **Sources/References**

- John C. Campbell Folk School, [www.folkschool.org](http://www.folkschool.org)
- South Carolina Artisans Center, [www.scartisanscenter.com](http://www.scartisanscenter.com)
- Craft Heritage Trails of Western North Carolina, published by Handmade in America, Inc., [www.handmadeinamerica.org](http://www.handmadeinamerica.org)
- Heritage Skills <http://www.heritageskills.org/>
- Living History Park in North Augusta <http://www.colonialtimes.us/index.html>
- South Carolina Heritage Corridor <http://www.sc-heritagecorridor.org/>
- South Carolina Cotton Museum <http://www.sccotton.org/>