

Blacksmithing at Burnaby Village Museum

Burnaby Village Museum (BVM) offers a wide range of hands-on blacksmithing workshops open to the public. Courses are organized into four categories (introductory, intermediate, advanced, and specialty) based on the knowledge and skills required to participate.

Introductory courses – for beginners

Introductory courses are suited to individuals who do not have any previous or recent forging experience. The activities in this category teach students the importance of safety in the blacksmith's shop, as well as how to work with a coal forge, hammer, and anvil to create useful household items.

Introductory courses are prerequisites for taking any further blacksmithing workshops at the Museum. BVM offers three different introductory courses:

- » **Blacksmithing: Basic** (4 hours)
- » **Blacksmithing: Immersion** (6 hours)
- » **Forging Fridays Or Forging for Youth** (two 3 hour courses) – open only to youth ages 13-16

Participants who have equivalent experience or knowledge of forging may register for an intermediate or advanced course without having taken an introductory workshop. Please make us aware of this situation at the time of registration.

Intermediate courses (requires prerequisite)

The activities in this category make excellent second or third courses. Unlike our advanced workshops, these courses allow students to work on projects suitable to their skill level while practicing basic techniques. Folks can choose from a variety of workshops:

For 13+ years of age:

- » **Blacksmithing: Forge Welding**
- » **Blacksmithing: Hooks, Hangers & Plant Holders** (formerly Hooked on Blacksmithing)
- » **Blacksmithing: Pokers, Weeders & Bottle Openers** (formerly Pokers Plus)

For 16+ years of age:

- » **Blacksmithing: Letter Opener**
- » **Blacksmithing: Tool Making**

We suggest taking an intermediate course before proceeding to take our advanced offerings; however, this is not a requirement.

Advanced courses (requires prerequisite)

Advanced courses are designed for individuals who feel comfortable working at the forge and who can demonstrate basic skills such as tapering and making eyes. These courses are open to anyone 16+ years of age. Courses in this category include:

- » **Blacksmithing: Handy Hardware**
- » **Blacksmithing: Ornamental Animal Heads**
- » **Blacksmithing: Ornamental Door Pull**
- » **Blacksmithing: Tong Making**

Specialty course (requires at least three previous blacksmithing courses (or equivalent))

Our **Blacksmithing: Open Forge** course is designed for seasoned blacksmiths who lack a forge of their own and/or would like some light guidance while practicing their craft. This course provides shop space and allows participants to work on their own project or practice specific techniques. Participants should plan to submit their project before class. A 3-ft length of 3/8 inch mild steel will be provided. Students must bring any other metal that is required for their project.

Activity dates and registration

Blacksmithing courses run throughout the year on select weekends and weekday evenings. For an up-to-date and detailed list of courses, please visit WebReg: [Burnaby.ca/WebReg](https://burnaby.ca/WebReg)

Can't find a course you're looking for? Feel free to reach out to BVM Programmer, Ashley Jones (Ashley.Jones@burnaby.ca) to see whether we might be able to accommodate your request.