

# 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 five levels (0–4) based on the knowledge and skills required to participate.

## Level 0: At the Forge courses

At the Forge courses take place in our blacksmith shop and involve metalworking, however, they only include a small amount of blacksmithing, or in some cases, no blacksmithing at all. These courses have an artistic aspect and often require the use of a propane torch.

Successful completion of an At the Forge course does not meet the prerequisite for taking higher level (2–4) blacksmithing courses. Participants must complete a Level 1 blacksmithing workshop before proceeding with Level 2 courses. Courses in this category include:

- » **At the Forge Level 0: Copper Ring**
- » **At the Forge Level 0: Copper Rose**
- » **At the Forge Level 0: Iron Rose**

## Level 1: Introductory courses

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 several different introductory courses:

- » **Blacksmithing Level 1: Basic** | One 4-hour session
- » **Blacksmithing Level 1: Copper, Fire & Iron** | Three 4-hour sessions
- » **Blacksmithing Level 1: Immersion** | One 6-hour session
- » **Forging for Youth** | Two 3-hour sessions (open only to youth ages 13–16)

Participants who have equivalent experience in blacksmithing may register for an intermediate course without having taken a Level 1 workshop. Please make us aware of this situation at the time of registration.

## Level 2: 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 Level 2: Forge Welding**
- » **Blacksmithing Level 2: Hooks, Hangers & Plant Holders**
- » **Blacksmithing Level 2: Pokers, Weeders & Bottle Openers (formerly Pokers Plus)**

### For 16+ years of age:

- » **Blacksmithing Level 2:** Letter Opener
- » **Blacksmithing Level 2:** Tool Making
- » **Blacksmithing Level 2:** Cupid's Arrow & Heart
- » **Blacksmithing Level 2:** Drawer Pull
- » **Blacksmithing Level 2:** Simple Scrolls

### Level 3: Advanced courses | requires prerequisites

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 Level 3:** Handy Hardware
- » **Blacksmithing Level 3:** Ornamental Animal Heads
- » **Blacksmithing Level 3:** Ornamental Door Pull
- » **Blacksmithing Level 3:** Tong Making
- » **Blacksmithing Level 3:** Utensils 4 U

### Level 4: Open Forge course | requires at least three previous blacksmithing courses (or equivalent)

Our Blacksmithing Level 4: 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 are welcome to use scrap metal found in the shop, but should bring their own metal if they have a specific project in mind.

### Multi-Level Courses - Forging Fundamentals

BVM's Forging Fundamentals courses are multi-session programs that cover content from more than one level, as indicated in the program title. Registrants who have successfully completed a Forging Fundamentals course can move on to advanced workshops. Courses in this category include:

- » Forging Fundamentals Levels 1 & 2: Decorative Iron Work | Three 4-hour sessions
- » Forging Fundamentals Levels 1 & 2: Hooked on Blacksmithing | Two 4-hour sessions

### 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](http://Burnaby.ca/WebReg).

Please note that upper level courses (Levels 2–4) require phone registration. Please call 604-297-4565 to register.

Can't find a course you're looking for? Contact BVM's Programmer at 604-294-7718 to see whether we might be able to accommodate your request.