



Foxfire

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Meet, Greet, and Talk Shop at Foxfire

For those who follow the brown signs and brave the occasional graveled road across the foot of Black Rock Mountain, there's a charming place to visit, some interesting things to see, and some nice folks to chat with at the Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center.

Designed to be a functional museum of the heritage of Southern Appalachia through the hard work and the choices of local high school students, Foxfire's property, log cabins, and artifacts represent the lives of the pioneers settling these mountains hundreds of years ago, and their simple and fulfilling way of life that still persisted here until recent decades.

The entrance to the Museum is the Gift Shop, on the lower floor of the first cabin guests see coming up Foxfire Lane. Here's where the meetings and greetings are handled by some really nice folks - Paulette Carpenter and Marie Carter. Both are life-long residents of the Rabun County area, avid textile crafters, long-time demonstrators at Foxfire events, and are now the managers of the Foxfire Gift Shop. Both ladies have years of experience and knowledge about the whole spectrum of textile crafts, from making and repairing quilts all the way to intricate crochet work, and almost anything imaginable in between. Besides tending the store for Foxfire, both Marie and Paulette produce a wide selection of crocheted and knitted goods that are available for sale in the Gift Shop.

On varying days, guests can chat with Marie as they browse the Gift Shop's selection of pottery and books, ask her to explain the trick of the confounding toy known as the "Idiot Stick," or talk about Marie's own crocheted goods that are available for sale, including intricate doilies, useful "scrubbie" dish rags, thick and durable scarves, warm and fuzzy hats, and many other things. On other days, guests can ask Paulette for her recommendations from the Gift Shop's selection of traditional music CDs, and even get a demonstration of the amazing Appalachian "whimmy-diddle" toy. Paulette's hand-made goods include tough crocheted dish rags, decorative crocheted-hanger kitchen towels, soft and fuzzy knitted scarves, and a selection of crocheted baby afghans.

While browsing the shop and talking about all manner of traditional crafts, both Marie and Paulette can explain where Foxfire came from and what it's about now, what's in store further up the mountain on the self-guided tour of the Museum grounds, and even what's coming up later in the year at the Museum. Make the trip up Black Rock, learn about the vanishing Southern Appalachian culture, and talk to the folks who keep their heritage alive— at Foxfire.



The Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center is located in Mountain City, Georgia, just 1.5 scenic miles off of Highway 441. Turn onto Black Rock Mountain Parkway and watch for the brown signs leading the way. Gift Shop and Museum hours are Monday—Saturday, 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Foxfire at 706-746-5828, giftshop@foxfire.org, or visit www.foxfire.org.



Paulette Carpenter (left) can help you pick out a piece of unique regional pottery, or help you pick out one of her crocheted baby afghans for the new addition, or maybe choose one of her warm, fuzzy knitted scarves for yourself. Marie Carter (right) can help you find that Foxfire book that's missing from your collection, or help you cover up and keep your head warm with one of her crocheted hats, "ear-warmer" headbands, or scarves.