

## Got an Idea for a New Study Group?

New study groups are always welcome! With Zoom, study groups have been able to widen their reach to members living beyond the greater Seattle area. A study group can have a short term focus such as exploring a new weaving book and a topic. Or, it can be more long term, focusing on a specific weaving area and providing support for members interested in that topic.

The study group chair can help you flesh out any study group idea that you have. Study groups can be as small as a couple of people who are interested in studying the same topic. These small groups are great when using Zoom.

Don't be afraid to start a study group. You don't need to be a subject expert! You just need to remember to send out reminders, show up at the meetings and keep things moving along during the meeting.

Here are the steps to forming a new study group.

1. Check the study group page on the website to see if there is already a study group on this topic and if it is accepting new members. If there is no study group on the topic or a time conflict (daytime vs evening), email your idea with a brief description to the study group chair ([studygroups@seattleweaversguild.com](mailto:studygroups@seattleweaversguild.com)). Include if the meetings will be in-person or on Zoom. If there is already a study group on this topic, let the study group chair know why you would like to start another group (time conflicts, group has a waitlist, etc.) Tip: study groups that are based on books are always popular.
2. Once you receive the go ahead from the study group chair, prepare a little write up about your study group and send it to Patrice Riordan at [bulkemail@seattleweaversguild.com](mailto:bulkemail@seattleweaversguild.com) with a copy to the study group chair. If you plan to meet on Zoom and use the guild account, work with Patrice to find an available time. Patrice will send the email description of your study group out to the guild members.
3. Wait for the response from the bulk email. If you are meeting on Zoom, try to limit the number of members to about 18-20 weavers. In general, the meetings are about 90 minutes. If you have more than 20 people, not everyone may be able to participate in 90 minutes. If there are more than 18-20 responses – start a wait list. If you are meeting in person, the number of members is limited by the size of the meeting location.
4. Hold your first meeting. Use it as a planning session with the members. As a group you can decide how often you want to meet (twice a month, monthly, bi-monthly, etc.). You may have some drop outs after the first meeting, but that's okay! It helps attendance to send out a reminder a couple of days before the meeting.