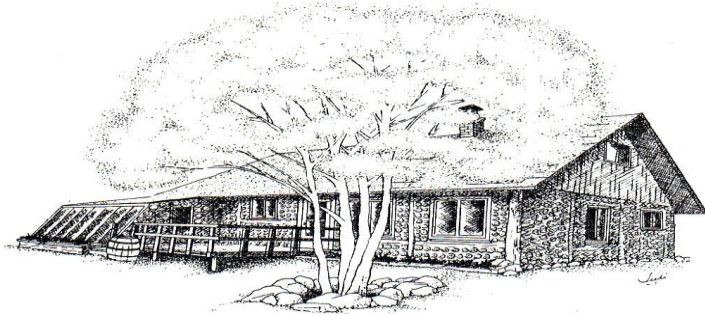


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How to Host a Cordwood Workshop

Thank you for your interest in hosting a Cordwood Construction workshop. The requirements to be a good host/hostess are:

1. **Delight in natural building.** It is also a plus if you are gregarious and friendly. If you are, you'll find hosting enjoyable.

2. **A cordwood project.** This can be a house underway, or a small outbuilding such as a sauna or garden shed. Two-thirds of the workshop schedule is devoted to hands-on work and one third to classroom instruction. As an example, about 1.5 days of actual cordwood work gets done at a 2 day workshop. Therefore, at a minimum, there needs to be a foundation in place before the workshop, preferably a week before, to avoid last-minute hassles. It helps to have a post-and-beam frame and roof on the building too, as it is then possible to cover the site easily in case of bad weather, assuring that the workshop continues.

There must be a supply of good, dry log ends for the cordwood mortaring (12% moisture content is optimal). It is very important that the wood be dry for at least a year or two. Dry firewood is a good example of how dry the wood needs to be.

A cordwood building project, for example, that is easy to prepare for, is the Cordwood Pole Shed as described in our Cordwood Pole Shed Plans booklet. Also a basic 12' x 16' (or whatever dimensions you choose) slab with a post and beam framework is also a good starter project. This building can be used for a variety of purposes, including a shed, office, sauna, guest house or even temporary shelter. In any case, you'll learn how to build a cordwood building.

We'll be happy to discuss your project with you well ahead of time, and help you to prepare a tools and materials list, so that everything is ready before the workshop starts. If rain is a possibility, provision should be made for covering the work area quickly and easily, which is why the post and-beam frame, prepared in advance, is such an advantage.

3. **Willingness to help with publicity.** Our mailing list will generate quite a few registrations, but maybe not enough to hold the workshop, so local publicity, such as press releases (which we supply) can be helpful. Depending on the location, the minimum number

of paying students to be viable, business-wise, is 8 to 12. Hosts, of course, attend free. Also, to maintain a good quality workshop, we limit enrollment to 16.

4. **Classroom:** We need to accommodate 18 to 20 people for lectures and slide presentations. Motels often have a conference room available, and sometimes have the facilities to serve coffee. Churches will often make a room available for a small donation. A large living room can also serve nicely as a classroom. Also, we'll need a screen, window shades (to darken the room) and a marker board. The classroom should be within ten miles of the work site.

5. **Accommodations for students.** There should be motels, B & B's, and camping facilities within twenty miles of the work site and classroom. You will need to give us a 'link' to lodging.

6. **Accommodation & travel expenses for the instructor(s).** We'll most likely bring our camper and set up our housing on site (if the workshop is within 150 miles). If travel expenses (gas or plane fare) are significant for us, we will work together with the host/hostess to seek a mutually agreeable financial arrangement to offset the cost of gas or plane fare. We usually ask for the host to pay for round trip air fare if we have to fly and gas if we have to drive.

7. **Meals and coffee break.** We expect the hosts to provide lunches and the snacks for breaks. Lunch can be simple: It can be make your own sandwiches, soup, a hot dish, or pizza. Classroom sessions are normally in the morning, although we can switch the schedule to accommodate weather situations. We usually have a break for coffee about 10 a.m. Cookies or muffins are always appreciated by all, but, so is a box of donuts. **We reimburse for food expenses.**

8. **Expenses.** The hosts get the benefit of a free workshop without having to travel. Plus, the workshop is a good way to make a start on your own building project. We handle the registrations from here, and Cordwood Construction derives the tuition fees from all paid registrations. We handle the mailings and workshop brochures and can supply the hosts with brochures to distribute locally. We undertake to reimburse the hosts for food expenses at the rate of \$8 per student per day. For example, if we have 15 students at a 2 day workshop, our reimbursement to you would be 15 (students) X 2 (days) X \$7 = \$210. We think you will find that this covers the food expenses.

9. **Workshop Description-** Workshops are normally two to three days, and consist of power points, question/answer time, and hands-on work sessions. If there is a good example of an existing cordwood home within a 20-minute drive, we can try to arrange a visit. Each day consists of a one-third classroom session and two-thirds work sessions at your site. This is a popular balance and makes for a very full and varied two days, usually Saturday and Sunday. Tuition rates are \$220 for 2 days, per individual and \$390 for 2 days, per couple. Our rates are always extremely competitive -- usually much lower -- than those charged by other building schools.

10. **Finishing your project.** One thing that is important to consider, is that your project will NOT be completed at the workshop. We work on teaching, re-teaching, and explaining how to do things correctly, so while we will get quite a bit of cordwooding done, we will not finish your project. You will need to make plans to "cordwood" after the workshop is over, in order to finish the walls.

If you think you would like to host such a workshop, and feel that you can meet the guidelines outlined in this letter, please give me a call at 715-536-3195, 715-212-2870, or email at richardflatau@gmail.com