

Daylight Quilt Retreat – Details and FAQ

We are so pleased to be offering a 2 day in-person YHQG sewing retreat - a first for the guild!

If you have any questions that aren't answered here, please reach out to the President's email (yhgg.president@gmail.com) and we'll get back to you. Hope you will join us!

What is a Daylight Retreat?

A Daylight Retreat is a chance to gather in-town to sew with guild members during the day. Everyone will head home after the first day and return for day 2. This gives us a chance for dedicated sewing time, community and fun, without the expense or travel required for an out-of-town retreat.

Date: Friday October 16 and Saturday October 17

Time: 9am to 8pm each day – come and go or stay as long as you like during this time frame, go home to sleep

Location: Leaside Memorial Gardens (1073 Millwood Rd; Millwood and Laird)

Cost: \$105 per person

The cost includes:

- Use of the room from 9am-8pm each day
- One 3'x8' worktable per person with a standard banquet chair
- Use of shared ironing stations and cutting tables
- Coffee/tea and snacks
- Optional activities (these will be member-led so what is offered will depend on what people volunteer to lead)
- Prizes
- Free parking

You will need to bring:

- Your sewing machine and supplies
- Any projects you want to work on

Note: Only members of the 2026/2027 Guild year (starting Sept 2026) are eligible to sign up at this time. Please ensure you have paid your membership fees before registering; you can register at this link <https://yhgg.org/membership-information/>

Common Questions

Thank you to everyone who completed the initial scoping survey - we have used your feedback to prepare the following information.

1. Sounds great! How do I sign up?

SIGN UPS ARE OPEN!

To sign up, please use the link in the announcement email – this has been sent to members only and is not available on the website. Answer a few registration questions and complete your payment. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to a shared google document with more details for registered participants as we collaboratively build more elements of this group activity.

Please sign up as early as possible to secure your spot and allow us to plan accordingly.

2. How many people can participate?

We require a minimum of 25 participants to cover the cost of the venue and can accommodate a maximum of 30. If we reach capacity we will start a waitlist. Spots will be sold on a first come first served basis. You will select your workstation when you arrive on the day of the retreat.

3. What happens if we don't get the minimum number of sign ups?

If we do not have 25 participants we may cancel the retreat – final Go/No Go decision would be made in early September by the Guild Exec in this case. All payments will be returned to you. We are able to cancel our contract with the venue in early September without penalty.

4. What is the venue like? Is the location accessible?

The room will be on the ground floor of the building with standard ramps from the parking lot. There is a parking lot with free parking, and Bus 51 stops on Millwood if you are taking TTC (please confirm as part of your planning).

We will have a large function room (William Tea Room) with windows on one side, an adjoining kitchen space and accessible bathroom. There is a dedicated entrance to the space and access through the general arena. We are not permitted to put anything on the walls.

5. What about food?

Coffee, tea and some snacks will be provided as part of your registration fee. There are vending machines on site and a water fountain with bottle filling in the main arena just down the hall from the room.

Meals are not included.

There is a large fridge and a standard microwave in the kitchen area attached to the workspace, which you can use if you bring food from home. There are many restaurants in the area for dine-in or take out, and there's always delivery services. There will be a few round tables with chairs in the retreat space so that people can sit together away from their workstation. There is no cutlery or serving utensils etc at the venue.

Additionally, some participants may volunteer to organize a meal option for one or more meals, that other participants can opt in to. In these cases, whomever is organizing would share what they are planning (ie. order pizza for delivery to the venue for Friday lunch) and how much it would cost to be included. Other participants can express interest and pay the meal organizer directly.

The Retreat Organizers will include a section in the shared planning document to help facilitate this – you'll receive the link to the planning document shortly so keep an eye out for this!

6. Will there be any workshops or activities?

This retreat will allow you to work on your own projects. There will NOT be a teacher, workshop or a project that everyone learns and works on over the two days.

However, members may identify activities that they want to organize and lead to enrich the retreat experience, which will be added to the schedule; participants can decide which they wish to participate in. If no one offers to lead, then there will only be limited additional activities. Ideas for activities could include, but are not limited to: leading movement breaks or hand yoga, offering demonstrations of techniques, coordinating a group project like an orphan block kitchen sink quilt, games like trivia or speed sewing, free table/garage sale/fabric swap

7. How can I help make this retreat a success?

We are counting on participants to help build on to the bones of the retreat that we have established! In the planning document (you'll get a link once you've registered), we'll help detail some of the required and optional things that we need participants to help with, such as:

- Bringing an ironing board for the shared ironing stations (required)
- Snack shoppers – purchase items for the coffee/tea station, and snacks (required)
- Organize one or more meals options (optional)
- Do a demo, plan a group icebreaker/ energizer or activity (optional)

Please reach out to France our Volunteer Coordinator (yhgg.volunteer@gmail.com) if you have suggestions for other things that should be added to the volunteer list, or with questions about how you can help out. You can volunteer for existing things directly in the shared document.

8. Will there be any prizes?

Yes! We'll arrange for some door prizes – you'll be eligible for these simply by registering and attending. The quantity and type of prizes is TBD but will be arranged by the Retreat Coordinators. Not around when your name is drawn for a prize? Not to worry, we'll hang on to it for you until you're back. If any participants organize any games or activities, we may be able to provide some prizes for those too.

9. Will there be any cozy spaces available to curl up for some hand quilting?

Unfortunately, neither of the venues that we were looking at have any soft furnishing available.

10. Do I leave my things there overnight?

Yes you may. Set up once and enjoy two days of sewing. The room will be locked by venue staff at 8pm on Friday and unlocked at 9am Saturday (or whenever the first participant arrives, whichever is later). Items may be left overnight at your own risk. Thank you for understanding that the organizing group and venue aren't responsible for lost or damaged items.

11. What's the electricity situation?

Each participant will have a 3'x8' table and a chair. The tables will likely be arranged in groups of 4, sharing one outlet. Access to outlets in the room will be limited, and priority will be given to one plug per participant. We do not anticipate any issues with electrical supply for one sewing machine per person, plus our shared ironing stations and a coffee/tea bar. However, use of individual additional desk lighting or individual travel irons may be limited by access to plugs or the electrical capacity of the rooms.

12. I'm only available one day, can I still attend?

Yes! We will initially allocate a small number of spaces for members who are only available on Friday OR Saturday (\$52.50).

Our goal is to meet the diverse needs of members in a way that feels fair, while balancing the factors that will allow us to fill the retreat. Accordingly, we may adjust the number of single day spaces available pending demand for half/full retreat participation - **please sign up early if you want to snag one of these one day spots.**

13. Can non-members sign up?

To start, the sign-up email and link has been shared with members only. Sign ups will be members only until August 1 to allow all interested members a chance to participate – non-members can express their interest and get on a waitlist by emailing the President's email. If we have space available after August 1, non-members will be most welcome!

14. I'm a member but I live out of town – can I still attend?

Yes of course! This would be a great chance to spend some face-to-face time getting to know other members. If you don't have any family/ friends to stay with, the Toronto Don Valley Hotel and Suites and Crowne Plaza North York are both nearby. If you get in touch, we can also see if any participants have a spare room to offer you, though this would not be guaranteed so please keep this in mind before you sign up.

15. Will there be a waitlist?

Yes – if all spots sell out, we will start a waitlist. Details for how to join the waitlist will be added to the sign up form if a waitlist becomes relevant.

16. If my availability changes can I get a refund?

It is really challenging from a planning perspective if members cancel, but we know that sometimes life happens. If you have signed up and are no longer able to attend, please contact us at the President's email (yhqq.president@gmail.com) and we will discuss.