



Pottery Sessions – 4-Week Workshop

Industrial Arts Institute 20902 Washington Street, Onaway, MI

Instructor: Joe Donna, Industrial Arts Institute Resident Artist

Schedule: Four Thursdays, 5:30–8:30 PM

Session 1 Dates: September 24, October 1, October 8, October 15, 2026.

Session 2 Dates: October 22, October 29, November 5, November 12, 2026

Duration: 3 hours per session. **Cost:** \$75.00 per 4-week workshop session (includes artist-guided instruction, clay, kiln access, and studio supplies)

Workshop Description

Pottery Sessions is a hands-on, boutique-style workshop for adults interested in learning the art of pottery. Over four weeks, participants will develop foundational pottery skills, explore creative hand-building techniques, and gain introductory experience with throwing on the pottery wheel. Under the guidance of the Industrial Arts Institute Resident Artist, participants work at their own pace to create unique ceramic pieces in a relaxed, supportive studio environment.

This course is ideal for beginners or anyone looking for a creative, tactile experience with clay—whether hand building, experimenting with surface textures, or trying the wheel for the first time.

Workshop Objectives

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand basic pottery concepts and studio safety
- Demonstrate hand building techniques: pinch pots, coil building, and slab construction
- Apply surface textures and decorative elements
- Gain introductory experience with wheel throwing
- Understand basic kiln and firing procedures

Materials Provided

- Clay (reasonable quantity provided for personal project work)
- Studio tools and equipment
- Kiln firing for completed pieces
- Worktables, aprons, and shared studio space

Participants are encouraged to wear clothing suitable for working with clay.



Weekly Workshop Breakdown

Week 1 – Studio Orientation & Hand-building Basics

- Studio orientation and safety guidelines
- Overview of clay types and materials
- Demonstration: pinch pots, coil building, slab construction
- Hands-on practice: create an introductory hand built piece
- Cleanup and storage of works-in-progress

Week 2 – Building Skills & Project Development

- Review of Week 1 projects and troubleshooting
- Guided hand building practice with focus on form and structure
- Begin a new project using coil or slab techniques
- Introduction to surface preparation for decoration
- Cleanup and proper storage

Week 3 – Surface Techniques & Wheel Throwing Introduction

- Demonstration: texture, impressions, and surface decoration
- Hands-on practice applying decorative elements
- Introductory wheel-throwing demonstration and guided practice
- Tips for finishing pieces in preparation for firing
- Cleanup and studio organization

Week 4 – Completion, Finishing & Firing Prep

- Final shaping, smoothing, and finishing touches
- Overview of glazing options (if applicable) and post-firing care
- Prepare pieces for kiln firing
- Group discussion and studio cleanup
- Instructions for picking up finished work after firing

Open Studio Access

Participants may access the Pottery Studio during **Thursday and Friday Open Lab hours** for supervised independent work. Open Lab time is intended for continuing projects begun during the 4-week workshop and must follow all studio safety and etiquette guidelines.