



Dear Idaho Watercolor Society Members:

The Idaho Watercolor Society is excited to announce a dynamic program in partnership with The Patriot Art Foundation to provide art instruction and supplies to Veterans throughout the State of Idaho. The Patriot Art Foundation was established in 2019 by renowned artist, Mary Whyte.

The mission of the PATRIOT ART FOUNDATION is to create purpose, expression, and connection in the veteran community through exposure to and participation in art. Participation in art classes can enhance creativity, build a sense of accomplishment, spark communication and connections, and can heal and unite us with ourselves and each other. This is an amazing opportunity to use our talents, help our veterans, and give back to our community in ways that are often life changing.

Working with the Veterans clinics and hospitals throughout Idaho, veteran participants are referred to our program by their VA Centers and are also overseen by the center's Recreational/Art Therapists. Classes are generally held online and run for 2 hours 1 day per week for 6 weeks. This allows IWS instructors to provide classes throughout the State, regardless of where they live. All classes begin with watercolor basics covering techniques, color values, texture and composition. All instructors are trained by the Patriot Art Foundation and are given all the supplies and support they need.

The Patriot Art Foundation Message from Mary Whyte

We teach veterans how to paint at their kitchen tables. While learning the basics of watercolor at home might not sound like much, the results are sometimes astonishing. Not only do many of our veterans end up creating works they are mighty proud of, the change in their confidence, self-esteem, and sense of connection with others can be life changing.

Through the healing qualities of art, we give veterans a much-needed way to express themselves when words can't, and to provide a way to navigate a sometimes-difficult world with creativity, purpose, and joy. Whether it's via our wide-reaching online classes, intimate classes in partnership with the Veterans Administration, Veterans Art Rally, or Art Muster mentorship groups, we are opening doors to whole health.

We invite you to be a part of our mission. Whether it is volunteering as a teacher, mentor, administrative assistant, or reaching into your wallet to help us provide art supplies for every participating veteran, together we can make a difference. Our veterans have given us so much. Now it is our turn to show them how much we care by giving back.

The Idaho Watercolor Society wants to bring this program to Idaho to support our veterans, and to celebrate our upcoming 50th anniversary. We plan to begin instructor training sessions in October 2025, with the first classes starting in January 2026. This is an amazing way to use our talent to give back in a way that could be life changing for a veteran.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer instructor or volunteer administrator, please contact Lynn McConnell (mcconnell1106@gmail.com) or Gail Grecco (gailgrecco055@gmail.com). For more information, I would encourage you to go to the Patriot Art Foundation website at: <https://www.patriotartfoundation.org>.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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