

F.I.R.E.

Green Sand Workshop

Friday, May 16, 2025 - 9:00AM–5:00PM

Lawler Foundry at the Metal Museum

This workshop is intended to acquaint the foundry student with the benefits and limitations of green sand by using the tools and techniques to make green sand molds. Students are expected to have some foundry molding experience, but we can accommodate beginners to experts.

We will begin with a brief description of the various types of green sand and how it is made. All students will then be taken through the steps of making a simple mold of a light switch cover that can be individually embellished. These first molds will be poured in aluminum so you can see what to expect in detail and finish. The rest of the workshop, students will make molds of their choosing with instructors available to guide their work. These can be poured in aluminum, bronze or iron.

Students may use available patterns (book ends, bottle openers, etc.), but are encouraged to bring their own. Patterns should have clear parting lines with draft and must be made from a rigid material (wood, metal, plastic, etc.) with a smooth finish. High relief and fine details are ok, but material such as unfinished wood is not good as the sand will stick to the rough surface.

With some exceptions, green sand molds are made in ‘tight flasks’. The Lawler Foundry has a good supply of 5”x5”, 2” over 2” flasks and 10”x10”, 3”- 4” over 3”-4” flasks available. Some other smaller and larger flasks are on hand. We will try to accommodate all needs, but students are asked to try to keep patterns to a size that can fit in these flasks – leaving at least ½” clearance from the edges of the flasks. If you have questions about something you would like to try as a pattern, please contact us before the workshop so we can advise you.

The workshop fee includes a \$50 allowance for materials. The Conference material fees are \$0.25/lb for green sand (returned after casting), \$6.00/lb for aluminum, \$8.00/lb for bronze, and \$0.50/lb for iron (metal fees are for finished castings, not total weight poured). If you cast iron, you must break it yourself.

For questions concerning this workshop, please contact the lead instructor, Bob Rogers at bohr58@bellsouth.net or text or call (901)5087429. We look forward to seeing you at F.I.R.E. 2025!