

# Miwok-Paiute Basketry



**August 22–24, 2025**

**Lucy Parker, Dr. Julia Parker, & Ursula Jones**

\$600 per person / \$575 for Mono Lake Committee members

enrollment limited to 10 participants

*optional primitive campsite near Lundy Canyon (no pets)*

During this three-day seminar, participants will prepare materials and create a small Miwok-Paiute basket using a twining method. All materials will be gathered, seasoned, and prepared for each student. This seminar is designed for weavers of all levels, beginning through advanced. You are encouraged (but not required) to camp with the group.

Basket weaving requires time and desire, plus patience, especially with yourself as you practice a new skill. Your instructors are excellent guides, and we encourage you come to this workshop open to learning about weaving and native cultures. This seminar offers a chance to set everyday worries aside, bask in the peaceful setting, and leave refreshed by new connections and skills.

Lucy Parker is a descendant of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a, and Kashaya Pomo peoples. She learned traditional handiwork from her mother, master basket weaver Dr. Julia Parker, and will pass on some of her knowledge in this special seminar. Ursula Jones is Lucy's daughter and is continuing the basketry tradition for the next generation. Dr. Julia Parker—Lucy's mother and Ursula's grandmother—is one of the famous basket weavers of California, and the only weaver still practicing who was taught by women who wove in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The family's work has been featured at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Heard Museum, and the National Museum of Natural History.

## ITINERARY

**Friday, August 22 at 9:00am:** Meet inside at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining (51365 Highway 395). After announcements and introductions we will travel to the group campsite, located on private property south of Lundy Canyon, to set up camp and have lunch. After lunch we will introduce materials and technique and then begin work on our baskets. There will be discussion of Miwok and Kootzaduka'a (Mono Basin Paiute) culture.

*If you prefer to stay in town or at another campsite you are welcome to do so. The seminar will meet at the group campsite location on Saturday and Sunday mornings.*

**Saturday, August 23 at 9:00am:** We will gather at the campsite to begin work. Most of the day will be spent working with your hands, and there will be breaks throughout the day. As we work we will enjoy the cool shade of the willows, cottonwoods, and aspens, and have opportunities to tell stories and discuss Kootzaduka'a culture.

**Sunday, August 24 at 9:00am:** We will gather again by our campsite and continue our work and discussion. We may find nearby shaded spots/views for more time on the baskets. We will conclude our seminar in the early afternoon.

## ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY

This seminar's activity level: *easy*. We will be sitting, in a shady area, most of each day to weave, with short optional strolls around the property. There are grass and dirt paths between the parking area and the weaving spot, with small footbridges over irrigation ditches—the terrain is uneven. The most strenuous parts of the seminar will be setting up and then packing up the weaving site and/or campsites.

## WEATHER & ALTITUDE

Temperatures in summer will be hot during the day and drop to chilly at night, with possible windy conditions and afternoon thunderstorms. Average temperatures in August in Lee Vining are 83°F (max) and 52°F (min).

This seminar will take place at elevations ranging from about 6,000 to 10,000 feet above sea level. It is a good idea to acclimate at the elevation of Lee Vining for at least 24 hours prior to the start of the seminar. Those with a history of heart, ear, or respiratory problems should consult their doctors before attending. Anyone restricted to lower elevations should not enroll.

Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is intense at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

## CAMPING

The primitive campsite is optional but included with the seminar, available Friday and Saturday nights *only* (no pets, please). After registration and introduction in Lee Vining at the Mono Lake Committee we will caravan to the campsite together, just a few minutes' drive away.

*If you wish to camp, please bring a tent.* The campsite does not have good level spaces for campers/vans or for people who wish to sleep in their vehicles.

If you're camping with the group, please bring all the gear you will need to camp at a primitive campsite (port-o-potty toilet, no piped water). You must bring all your own water for the duration, though you can fill up containers at the Mono Lake Committee if you run out. We will be exercising low-impact camping. *Please pack lightly—campsites are up to 100 yards from the parking lot, and you will have to carry all your equipment to the sites by hand.*

## MEALS

You must bring your own food for the weekend. Camp stoves are allowed at the campsite for cooking—*no open campfires or barbeques allowed.* If you are staying in town, plan on bringing your own lunches and snacks.

## TO BRING

- long towel
- bucket
- sharp general-purpose knife
- hand pruners (for cutting additional willow)
- good quality, sharp scissors
- high-quality small metal awl
- low lawn/folding chair or blanket for sitting on the ground
- long plastic container for soaking materials (three feet long or longer, narrow and shallow; gift wrap boxes work well and can be found at The Container Store: [containerstore.com](http://containerstore.com))
- spray bottle
- sunscreen and/or hat
- insect repellent
- water for the day (or for your camp for the duration)
- snacks for the day (or food for your camp for the duration), plus electrolytes for good hydration
- a basket tool kit if you already have one

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- *The Fine Art of California Indian Basketry*
- *It Will Live Forever*
- *Remember Your Relations: The Elsie Allen Baskets, Family & Friends*
- *Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes*
- *Tradition and Innovation* (out of print)
- *Weavers of Tradition and Beauty: Basket Makers of the Great Basin*
- *Voices of the People: The Traditionally Associated Tribes of Yosemite National Park*



## Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • [monolake.org/seminars](http://monolake.org/seminars)