



The Fireside Writing Retreat

Friday, January 9 - Sunday, January 11, 2026
Earthshine Lodge, Lake Toxaway NC

The artist Andrew Wyeth once wrote, “I prefer winter ... when you feel the bone structure of the landscape. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn’t show.” Winter is indeed the perfect time to turn inward: to construct or refurbish our creative scaffolding. It’s also a time for quiet and rest—necessary acts of creative care for any artist. Our goal with this retreat is to offer a private, comfortable, and dedicated space in which to rest, write, and be inspired—and a community of creatives to support and encourage writing progress and goals. Join us with work-in-progress or come to create something new, and plan to be inspired by the crackle of the fire and the icy blue of the winter mountains. **This is your time**—this itinerary is *optional* and time spent with your host or other writers is by choice. The scheduled sessions are available but not required.

Friday, January 9th

1:00pm	Check in begins - guests may arrive anytime after this to get settled and begin creating!
5:00pm	Evening Community Conversation - Setting Intentions for Your Retreat You're here! Cozy up around the fire and gather with fellow writers for a casual conversation guided by Guest Host Katherine Scott Crawford. Here we'll spend a brief time getting to know one another and have a chance to both craft and share our individual intentions for the retreat.
6:00pm	Dinner - Lodge main dining room (wine and beer available for purchase)

Saturday, January 10th

7 - 9:00am	<p>Coffee starts at 7am and breakfast is available starting at 8:00am.</p> <p>Sign-ups for optional one-on-one sessions with Host Katherine Scott Crawford will be available on the hearthside coffee table.</p>
9:15 - 10:00 am	<p>Fireside Yoga</p> <p>Yoga is nothing more than a conversation between body and spirit—a quiet dipping into the present moment. You don't have to be a yogi (or ever have participated in a yoga class at all) to spend a bit of time on the mat.</p> <p>Start your morning with a yoga class, and the goal of anchoring into the present moment and the good earth of these mountains, in order to ready ourselves for the retreat ahead.</p>
10:30am - noon	<p>One-on-One Sessions with Host Katherine Scott Crawford</p> <p>Sign up in advance for an optional, 20-minute, one-on-one session with host and author Katherine Scott Crawford. Come with specific questions in mind about current projects, or just to talk. We can brainstorm writing/story ideas, discuss the publishing industry; you can pick her brain about her own experiences as an author, or discuss any other aspect of the writing life. (We can also bundle up to “walk and talk,” weather permitting. Totally up to you).</p>
Noon - 1pm	<p>Lunch - “Stay and eat” or “grab and go”</p>
3:30 - 4:30pm	<p>One-on-One Sessions with Host Katherine Scott Crawford</p> <p>Sign up in advance for an optional, 20-minute, one-on-one session with host and author Katherine Scott Crawford. Come with specific questions in mind about current projects, or just to talk. We can brainstorm writing/story ideas, discuss the publishing industry; you can pick her brain about her own experiences as a writer and author, or discuss any other aspect of the writing life. (We can also bundle up to “walk and talk,” weather permitting. Totally up to you).</p>
6pm	<p>Dinner - Lodge main dining room (wine and beer available for purchase)</p>
7:30 - 8:00pm	<p>Fireside Chat</p> <p>Let's commune fireside for an informal chat about the wonder and struggle of the creative life.</p>

Sunday, March 17th

7 - 9:00am	Coffee starts at 7am and breakfast is available starting at 8am
9:30am	<p>Fireside Closing Conversation - Looking Horizon-wide</p> <p>As you ready yourselves to leave the mountains behind, how do you feel? In what ways will you take the retreat with you? Let's have another casual conversation to close out the retreat, share, and set intentions for the days ahead.</p>
noon	Check-out