

Spring 2021 General Information



What is Encore Learning?

Encore Learning is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 2002 that offers a wide variety of daytime college-level noncredit courses, clubs, special events and activities to help meet the continuing educational and social interests of anyone over age 50. Encore Learning is governed, supported and financed by its members. Our volunteer instructors—retired or working professionals and scholars—create a stimulating learning environment through an exciting array of academic subjects. There are no tests or prerequisites but often some suggested reading. Members explore new ideas and develop new friendships. Encore Learning receives valuable assistance through alliances with George Mason University, the Arlington Public Schools Adult Education Program, Arlington County’s Office of Senior Adult Programs and Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center.

Contact Encore Learning

Communicating with us is easy:
Email us: info@encorelearning.net
Leave a voice message: 703-228-2144

Volunteer at Encore Learning

Volunteer work at Encore Learning is performed in two ways: through standing committees headed by board members and through individual activities, e.g., instructors and class aides. Committees recruit new instructors and develop courses each semester; seek exhibits, speakers and performances for our special event offerings; write, edit and distribute our

catalog; recruit new members; coordinate our clubs; organize Encore Learning’s social functions; and recruit, train and support our class aides. The member-elected Board of Directors governs the organization while the part-time staff serves as its administrative arm. Volunteer-run committees and other volunteer activities are our lifeblood, but for the most part do not require extensive time commitments. Consider offering your talents today.

Support Encore Learning

Encore Learning is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Any donation is a charitable contribution deductible from income taxes to the extent permitted by law. Support for Encore Learning may be toward our General Fund, which helps Encore Learning maintain a solid financial underpinning and funds ongoing operations, or to our Arthur W. Gosling Scholarship. As a partner in Arlington’s education community, Encore Learning sponsors multiple scholarships. Our Youth Scholarship supports graduates of Arlington public schools attending George Mason or Marymount Universities. The John T. Sprott Scholarship aids graduate students at Mason’s Schar School of Policy and Government. The endowed Encore Learning - McCracken Memorial Scholarship will soon be awarded to Mason undergraduates. Encore Learning also contributes annually to an Arlington Public Schools Adult Education scholarship assisting Arlington residents seeking to improve their job skills.

Spring 2021 Activities

SEMESTER-LONG COURSES

Classes are scheduled weekdays between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Classes meet once a week for 1.5 to 2 hours and each course lasts from four to 10 weeks. Class sizes generally range from 15 to 200.

CLUBS

Encore Learning's clubs are open to all current members. There are 10 clubs: Breakfast, Bridge, Cinema, Current Issues Discussion, Ethnic Lunch, Kayak, Mindfulness, Nonfiction Book, Tech Hobbyist and Travel. See our website, www.EncoreLearning.net, for information about club activities and how to be notified of upcoming virtual meetups.

SPECIAL EVENTS

For Spring 2021, Special Events will primarily be the Encore Learning Presents Series that are free and open to the public. These one-time lectures, panel presentations or films will be presented online. To view our current list of Special Events, please visit our website www.EncoreLearning.net.

COURSE PREVIEWS

Encore Learning's spring and fall course previews offer an opportunity to hear the instructors describe their courses before course registration begins. Prospective members are also invited.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Encore Learning holds an annual membership meeting to elect board members from a slate of candidates recruited by a nominating committee and to discuss the state of the

organization. All current members will be notified of the slate of candidates for election to the board of directors, which includes officers whose terms are up for election and each committee chair, and receive a ballot to complete online. The Membership Meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, May 20 at 10:00 AM.

ENCORE LEARNING MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Encore Learning costs \$65 per year and begins on the day on which the nonrefundable membership fee is paid. Membership renewal adds 12 months to the membership expiration date, which can always be found by logging in to your account online. All memberships are individual and non-transferable. Encore Learning is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; membership fee is a charitable contribution deductible from income taxes to the full extent permitted by law. Only current Encore Learning members may register for our courses and attend our club activities. For the Spring 2021 semester, all memberships will be processed online via our website, www.EncoreLearning.net.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Only current Encore Learning members may register for a course. Course registration is not transferable between members. The fee for each course is \$55. There is no minimum or maximum number of courses for which you may register. For the Spring 2021 semester, all registrations will be processed online via our website. Please note that only credit cards are accepted for course registrations. Course registration for the

Spring 2021 semester begins at 10 a.m. Monday, February 1, 2021. **All** registrations are first come, first served; waitlists for filled courses are available online. To register go to www.EncoreLearning.net. Late registration is allowed if space is available. The registration for a course is not meant to be shared at your home. If any other individual is going to participate in the course with you, they must also register for the course. If a course sells out, participants may be limited to signing on with a single device.

NOTIFICATION

Members get immediate feedback on their registration status upon payment and receive an emailed receipt. Members may access their account online at any time to view/print membership and registration status and receipts.

REFUNDS AND TRANSFERS

Members successfully registered in a course may choose between full refund of the course registration fee or transfer to an alternate open course in the following cases:

The selected course is cancelled for any reason;

The course's published schedule or location is changed prior to the course start date, and the member is no longer able to attend because of the change; or

Encore Learning receives an email (to info@encorelearning.net) with a withdrawal or transfer request from the member within 24 hours of the first class session start time. Withdrawal

requests received more than 24 hours after the first class session start time but within five working days after the first class session of the course may specify either refund of the course fee minus a \$10 service charge or transfer to an alternate open course; no refund or transfer is available after that period. Courses that do not meet their minimum enrollment of at least 10 students at least one week prior to the course start date will be cancelled. If withdrawals occurring after the course start date result in enrollment below the indicated minimum, the course may be cancelled.

Disclaimer of Liability

From time to time, members are offered opportunities related to courses, clubs and special events. Encore Learning disclaims all liability from injury or loss arising from a member's participating in such activities.

Discrimination and Academic Freedom

Encore Learning does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. As an educational organization, Encore Learning subscribes to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) principle of academic freedom: All views should be respected, regardless of their conformance with generally or currently accepted views.

Privacy Policy

Encore Learning is committed to protecting member privacy and to ensuring the security of personal information collected. Encore Learning

does not sell or lend member information. A complete Encore Learning Privacy Policy Statement is available from the Encore Learning Administrator and on our website. Members are urged to maintain their phone and postal address via their account on our website. Changes to your email address affect account access.

Email address changes must be sent to info@encorelearning.net via the member's new preferred email address; include full name and contact information. Staff will confirm and update accordingly.

Virtual Courses

Encore Learning will hold all courses online via Zoom for Spring 2021. To access a course, you will need a computer, tablet or phone. Instructors' presentations will be live-streamed and include both the speaker and their presentation materials. Courses will vary in format depending on class size and content, with some having ongoing discussion and others reserving questions for the end of class. Instructions for connecting to the Zoom class will be provided in **Class Media** in Member Account Manager, under My Activities. Visit www.EncoreLearning.net Frequently Asked Questions for more about Zoom.

ACCOUNT MANAGER: VERIFY, VERIFY, VERIFY

Log into Member Account Manager at least one week before course registration. This is the best way to verify that your username (email address) and password are working.

If your email has changed recently and you are unable to log in, email staff immediately using your working email address and include your full name and contact information. Staff will update your email address during office hours and send confirmation by email. Begin the password process again with the confirmed email address.

Review/update your account

information in Member Account Manager before registration begins on February 1.

- **Note** your Encore Learning password for easy access to your account on registration day.
- **Ensure** you can access Zoom with one or more devices (computer STRONGLY RECOMMENDED) by going to <https://zoom.us/test>.
- **Choose** your desired courses before logging in to register on February 1.
- **Register** online at 10 a.m. Monday, February 1, for your best chance at a seat in a popular course.
- **Opt** to be placed on the waitlist if the course is filled.
- **Complete** your online registration and payment within 20 minutes.
- **Log in** to Member Account Manager, click on My Activities, view Class Media, then view the Zoom Login Instructions for information about connecting to the course.

Sit back and wait for classes to begin.

LOGIN TROUBLE?

- If the system displays "Username does not exist. Please enter a new one" or "User does not exist, login failed," it may have been a keying error. Retype and submit again. We find this is the most likely culprit. You may have changed your email address since last logging into the system. Notify staff as noted above. Limited staff support will be available via email on the first day of registration.