

The Knitting/Crocheting SIG is making mittens to send to Ukraine as part of our community outreach. Here are the details; for more information or questions, or if you need a pattern, contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.a.durand@gmail.com.

Note: If you are a tl;dr type of person, here's what you really need to know: 100% animal fibers, any size, fit normal human hand.

The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (<https://www.uuarc.org/>), based in Philadelphia, ships a container to Ukraine almost every week. We will be delivering our first large batch of mittens to them early in September. The project will continue after that, with smaller batches delivered as mittens come in.

Mittens must be 100% non-superwash animal fiber: wool, wool/alpaca blends, wool/mohair blends, etc. (100% alpaca is not a good choice because it loves to streeettttchh and it does not bounce back). Remember, Europeans are still accustomed to caring for wool clothing.

(1) Animal fibers are warmest. (2) No acrylic or nylon or blends that include those fibers because when acrylic and nylon burn, they melt, and they will melt right onto skin. Many people will be cooking with open fire, or keeping warm with open fire – and although we'd love to think peace will have come by next winter, there's the very frightening reality that the person who is wearing your mittens may be somewhere bombs are falling. (3) No cotton: cotton stays cold and wet for a very long time and can actually enhance the chance of frostbite. (4) No superwash: one of the two main processes used to make wool superwash removes its flame-retardant properties.

Mittens can be knitted or crocheted, and all sizes are needed.

If you really don't like making mittens, hats are needed too. (All of the same fiber guidelines apply.) But hats always outnumber mittens significantly, so if you are able to knit mittens, please know they will be greatly appreciated. For this project, please do not send scarves, cowls, or fingerless gloves.

You can drop finished mittens at Wild Hand in Mt. Airy, bring them to a Knitting/Crocheting SIG meeting, or contact Elizabeth (email up top) for other options.