



2026 Quilt Contest Rules & Instructions

Enter at: <https://sewingexpo.com/Quilt-Contest-Entry-2026>

Entry Deadline: Monday, August 10, 2026

Entry photos will be juried by the Expo team, and up to seventy-five (75) finalists will be chosen to compete for ribbons and prize money. Finalists will be announced at SewingExpo.com/QuiltContest on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. If your entry is selected as a finalist, you will be notified by email with further instructions.

Kathryn Zimmerman, NACQJ certified judge, will select the award-winning quilts at the Expo in Lebanon, TN, on September 30, 2026. Winners will be announced at 12:00 PM CT on October 1, 2026, at the Expo and at SewingExpo.com/QuiltContest

Prizes:

- Best of Show is awarded a Ribbon and \$1,500 (Grand Prize)
- First Place in each division (Artisan and Master) is awarded a Ribbon and \$500
- Expo's Choice is awarded a Ribbon and \$500
- Viewer's Choice is awarded a Ribbon and \$500
- All First-Place winners in each category will be awarded a Ribbon
- All Second-Place winners in each category will be awarded a Ribbon
- All Finalists receive an exclusive swag bag from Original Sewing & Quilt Expo

Section One: Entry Rules and Information

1. All entries, photos, appraisals and approvals must be submitted online using the form at <https://sewingexpo.com/Quilt-Contest-Entry-2026> and must be received by 11:59 PM CT on Monday, August 10, 2026. If assistance is needed, please contact info@sewingexpo.com for more information.

2. There is a \$22 non-refundable entry fee per quilt entered. Within a few days of submitting your entry, you will receive an email invoice from mail@Invoiss.com with a link to pay by credit card. **All payments are due August 17, 2026, and any unpaid entries will be disqualified once the jury process begins.** To pay by check, make payable to: Hoffman Media, LLC and mail to: 909 Canterbury Rd. Ste. F Westlake, OH 44145
3. All entries must be a quilt, which is considered three layers bound together by thread using hand or machine, with the thread going through all three layers to create a quilted effect. The top may be either whole cloth, pieced or appliqued, the center is batting or fabric, and the back may be whole cloth, pieced or appliqued. All quilts must be hand or machine quilted. No tied or tacked quilts are allowed except for Crazy Quilts, which may be tied.
4. All entries will be juried into a group of up to seventy-five (75) finalists qualifying for in-person judging. The finalists will be announced at SewingExpo.com/QuiltContest on August 19, 2026. If your entry is selected as a finalist, you will be notified by email with further instructions.
5. If your entry is selected as a finalist for in-person judging, it can be shipped or dropped off.
 - a. If shipping your quilt, it must arrive before or on September 11, 2026, at the office in Westlake, OH. Use the shipping information in Section Two. Mail-in entries must be accompanied by a copy of the completed entry form and packaged per the instructions.
 - b. Entries may be dropped off in person at the Farm Bureau Expo Center in Lebanon, TN, on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm CT, and picked up on Saturday, October 3, 2026, between 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm CT with a valid ID - the entrant must be present (no exceptions).
Farm Bureau Expo Center 945 E Baddour Pkwy, Lebanon, TN 37087
6. Quilt Return - entries not picked up after the exhibition in Lebanon, TN will be returned using FedEx to the entrant's United States shipping address. Quilts will be invoiced for return shipping the week of October 26, 2026, at the prevailing shipping rates; returned upon payment.
7. Each entry must include a full-view color photo with the entire front of the quilt visible, a color photo of the entire back of the quilt, and up to two (2) detailed photos of your quilt highlighting your best area(s) of work. A "work-in-progress" photo is acceptable if the quilt is recognizable, although a pattern photo is not acceptable.
8. An optional headshot or photo of the Maker with the quilt will be accepted and may be used for promotional purposes.
9. Quilts will be judged hanging. Quilts must remain on display for the entire show and must be clean, in good condition, free of animal hair and smoke smell.
10. Each Entrant may enter up to two quilts in the contest and each must have been completed within the last four years (2023 - 2026).
11. Quilt width must be 96" or less (including the binding).
12. Quilts over 90" in height have special sleeve requirements. Please see the sleeve requirements in Section Two.

13. Entries will be judged based on creativity, workmanship, and design choices.
14. Quilts from kits with pre-selected fabrics will not be accepted. Kits and Block of the Month (BOTM) quilts are acceptable if the fabric was chosen by the quilt maker.
15. Each entry must be declared as one of the following:
 - One-Person Quilt** – Only one person did the entire construction of the quilt. The quilt was pieced or appliqued, hand or machine quilted and bound by only one person.
 - Two-Person Quilt** – A quilt to which two people contributed work. If someone else did any of the piecing, quilting or binding on a quilt, it automatically belongs in a Two-Person Category.
 - Group Quilt** – A quilt to which three or more people contributed work. If three or more people were involved in the piecing, quilting or binding of a quilt, it belongs in a Group Quilt Category.
16. All decisions of the jurors and judges are final. Hoffman Media, LLC reserves the right to reject any entry it deems inappropriate, or that does not meet the requirements, or to move a quilt into a different category.
17. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded to winning entries at the sole discretion of the guest Quilt Judge and Show Management. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded to the primary entrant (quilt top maker).
18. Photos of the quilt entries on exhibit may be used by Hoffman Media exclusively for promotional purposes.
19. Patterns in the public domain or copyright royalty-free may be used when credited. Copyright enforceable patterns require permission in writing and must be furnished in advance by the Entrant. Written permission is required if you used a design instruction, or someone else's copyright design is identifiable in the quilt. The Entrant agrees that any aspects not accredited are of original creation and further releases Hoffman Media or the guest Quilt Judge from any obligations to another party.
20. All Entrants must reside within the United States and to claim cash prizes must follow tax laws and are required to submit a W-9 to Hoffman Media, LLC for check payment after the judging is completed.
21. Entrants are responsible for their own insurance on all items. The completed Entry Form releases Hoffman Media, its officers, agents, and volunteers from all liability. Quilts valued over \$2,500 require an appraisal submission.

Section Two: Quilt Preparation and Shipping

1. Sleeve – Quilts must have an attached, sewn 4” sleeve. Quilts under 24” may have a 2” sewn attached sleeve. The sleeve should be the same width as the quilt, not including the binding. The sleeve should include ½” of ease and be stitched to the quilt on both the top and bottom of the sleeve. Entries without sewn sleeves will not be accepted. Quilts longer than 90” require the top of the sleeve to be placed 90” from the bottom of the quilt to ensure that the quilt will not touch the floor when hanging. For quilt sleeve tips, check out Libby Lehman’s video at [youtube.com/watch?v=aLv21TeLZaY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLv21TeLZaY)

2. Quilt Contest Identity Label – A quilt label should be sewn on a lower back corner. The label should include a) the name of the quilt; b) the entrant’s name; c) return shipping address; d) phone number. This is a Quilt Contest Identity Label; a personal label does not substitute unless it includes all the above information. To ensure impartiality in judging, please apply a fabric flap sewn or carefully safety-pinned along the top edge of any label with identification of the maker(s) to conceal your personal information.
3. Quilts requiring special handling/packaging – All quilts must be able to be stacked with other quilts without potential damage to your quilt or any other quilt in the show.
4. Please have appropriate Quilt Contest Identity Label & proper sleeve attached to your quilt.
5. Packaging your Quilt – Each separate entry must be submitted in a closed plastic bag sized to fit your quilt. The outside of the bag must be clearly labeled and placed inside a sturdy cardboard box with the entrant’s name, complete shipping address, and phone number.
6. Ship to arrive on or before September 11, 2026, to:

**Hoffman Media, LLC
909 Canterbury Road STE. F
Westlake, OH 44145**

Section Three: Definitions

Quilt Maker – The Expo defines the MAKER as the person who made the quilt top. The quilt-top MAKER’S status determines whether a quilt belongs in the Artisan Division or the Master Division. The status of the person who did the quilting plays no part in the Maker’s status as Artisan or Master.

Divisions:

Artisan Division – If **all** of the following statements are true enter the Artisan Division:

1. I have never been classified as a Master in the past.
2. I have never engaged in a quilt event or activity for monetary profit (more than \$2,500 in a year). i.e., I have never formally taught quilting, quilt-related or wearable arts techniques.
3. I have not published a pattern or book on quilt-related techniques within the last decade.

Master Division – If **any** of the following statements are true enter the Master Division:

1. I have been classified as a Master in the past.
2. I have engaged in a quilt event or activity for monetary profit (more than \$2,500 in a year). i.e., I have formally taught quilting, quilt-related or wearable arts techniques, or quilted professionally.
3. I have published a pattern or book on quilt-related techniques within the last decade.
4. I have won a Best of Show and/or lifetime total of two First Place Ribbons, or a combination of, in any accredited quilt show.

Categories

101. Artisan Small Traditionally Pieced Quilt

Small quilts must be 12" to 48" in width and 12" to 48" in length

102. Artisan Small Applique or Art Quilt

Small quilts must be 12" to 48" in width and 12" to 48" in length

103. Artisan Large Traditionally Pieced Quilt

Large quilts must be 48" to 96" in width and a length of 40" or more.

104. Artisan Large Applique or Art Quilt

Large quilts must be 48" to 96" in width and a length of 40" or more.

201. Master Small Traditionally Pieced Quilt

Small quilts must be 12" to 48" in width and 12" to 48" in length

202. Master Small Applique or Art Quilt

Small quilts must be 12" to 48" in width and 12" to 48" in length

203. Master Large Traditionally Pieced Quilt

Large quilts must be 48" to 96" in width and a length of 40" or more.

204. Master Large Applique or Art Quilt

Large quilts must be 48" to 96" in width and a length of 40" or more.

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