

## Rules Specific for Grand Rapids

Enter Your Quilt Online by: **March 28, 2023**

To enter the Grand Rapids AQS Quilt Contest, submit your entry(s) online at [americanquilter.com/quiltweek](http://americanquilter.com/quiltweek). Good Luck!

- All General Quilt Contest Rules apply. (See page 2.)
- Quilts must have been completed between April 1, 2020 and the entry deadline. "Completed" date refers to any quilt that has been previously entered in any quilt contest; altering the quilt after it has been exhibited will not change the date it was completed.
- Quilts must be available for display from August 16, 2023 until one week after the event.
- Quilts must fit within the size requirements and definitions of the categories listed.

Note: See General Rule 4 (page 2) for the definition of Stationary Sewing Machine or Movable Quilting Machine.

Notifications Emailed:  
**June 8, 2023**

Written judging evaluations are NOT provided for this quilt contest.

### Categories:

- 1. Large Quilts – Stationary Machine Quilted:** Width 60" to 110"; Length 60" or more. Quilting must be predominantly completed on a stationary sewing machine that allows the quilter to move the fabric rather than the machine.
- 2. Large Quilts – Movable Machine Quilted:** Width 60" to 110"; Length 60" or more. Quilting must be predominantly completed on a movable quilting machine that allows the quilter to move the machine head rather than the fabric.
- 3. Hand Quilted Quilts:** Width 40" to 110"; Length 40" or more. Quilts can be any technique; quilting must be predominantly completed by hand.
- 4. Wall Quilts – Stationary Machine Quilted:** Width 30" to 84"; Length 30" to 72". Quilting must be predominantly completed on a stationary sewing machine that allows the quilter to move the fabric rather than the machine. Quilts made for display on a wall, using any technique.
- 5. Wall Quilts – Movable Machine Quilted:** Width 30" to 84"; Length 30" to 72". Quilting must be predominantly completed on a movable quilting machine that allows the quilter to move the machine head rather than the fabric. Quilts made for display on a wall, using any technique.
- 6. Wall Quilts – Modern:** Width 30" to 84"; Length 30" to 72". Quilts, made for display on a wall, using any technique, that are inspired by modern design, often using improvisational piecing or appliqué and including bold colors, high contrast, and simple shapes on neutral backgrounds. Expansive negative space may allow the quilting to take the forefront.
- 7. The Ultimate Guild Challenge:** Width 30" to 60"; Length 30" or more. This challenge honors the results of a quilt guild's challenge to its members. The guild issues its own challenge to its members, choosing rules, fabrics, themes, or whatever! The top eight (8) quilts from the guild are submitted as one entry to The Ultimate Guild Challenge.
  - One entry submission per guild (include theme, challenge description and rules, contact information, and guild group photo).
  - Each individual can stitch or quilt on only one challenge quilt for one guild.
  - Information (title of quilt and size) must be included for each of the eight (8) quilts, including full and detail images of each quilt (see rule 6 in General Quilt Contest Rules).
  - Each guild may submit quilts online at [americanquilter.com/quiltweek](http://americanquilter.com/quiltweek).

\*To enter by mail, download entry form at [www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/aqs-quilt-contests](http://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/aqs-quilt-contests) and follow mailing instructions in the General Contest Rules. There will be a processing fee applied to all mailed entry(s).



## General Quilt Contest Rules

These rules apply to all 2023 AQS Quilt Contests:

1. A living maker(s) of a quilt can enter their completed work by submitting it online at [www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/aqs-quilt-contests](http://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/aqs-quilt-contests) along with the nonrefundable entry fee of \$25 per quilt for AQS members (using member name and email address associated with AQS membership) or \$40 per quilt for nonmembers, digital photos (see rule 6), and appraisal and/or design permission, if applicable (see rule 7). (Please note this registration software currently does not support iPads or Smart devices.)
2. Only one quilt may be entered in each category. Two quilts cannot be entered in the same category; for example, you may enter one quilt in category 1 and another in category 4, but you cannot enter both quilts into category 4. All quiltmakers must be named. If you are the second quiltmaker on a quilt, it counts as one entry in the category. **Previous AQS cash award winners in any AQS Contest are ineligible to enter a 1st Entry category.**
3. All quilts must be quilted by hand, machine, or both. Quilting is defined as a running stitch that passes through top, middle layer (batting), and backing. The quilt must consist of 3 layers (top, middle layer, and backing). Tied quilts are not eligible.
4. All quilts must fit the size requirements and definitions of the selected category. Please look carefully at category definitions and sizes. You must select a different category for each quilt. For categories defined by quilting method:
  - **Stationary Sewing Machine** includes use of any sewing machine that allows the quilter to move the fabric rather than the machine, and the machine sits on or is mounted on a table. The quilting must predominantly use this method.
  - **Movable Quilting Machine** includes any machine that allows the quilter to move the machine head rather than the fabric and is mounted on a frame. The quilting must predominantly use this method.
5. Quilts that have been altered, amended, or modified at any date after being entered in any quilt contest will be required to retain the original completion date. Changing the quilt in any way after it has been shown at any quilt contest will not change the completion date. Quilts that have been entered under one or more entrant name(s) must retain the same entrant name(s) for every AQS Quilt Contest.
6. Three photos must be uploaded with the entry. Please include:
  - **FULL-VIEW** photo of the completed quilt showing all four corners of the quilt. No part of the quilt can be obscured. (Do not manipulate your photos; however, you may crop the background so long as all edges, corners, and binding of the quilt are visible.)
  - **DETAIL** photo showing quilting stitches. Select a 12" section representing your best work.
  - **ENTRANT(S)** photo from the shoulders up. If you are a group or team of quilters, please use a group photo that includes everyone.
7. **Permissions and Appraisals:** It is the entrant's responsibility to obtain all necessary copyright releases for work that is covered under the copyright laws of the United States. This includes using someone else's pattern, artwork, photography, or another quilt as your inspiration, even if the design has been altered. Quilts valued over \$1,000 require an appraisal submission. When uploading design permissions and appraisal files, make sure they are no larger than 10 MB and multiple pages are scanned as one document.
8. Quilts must be in excellent condition. Incomplete, torn, or soiled quilts do not qualify for entry or display.
9. Quilts can be entered in multiple AQS Quilt Contests for up to twelve months, including quilts that win a cash award within that year. For example, if you enter a quilt in Paducah in April of 2023, you may enter it in any other AQS Quilt Contest for one calendar year. However, it would not be eligible to enter any contests that occur in April or beyond in 2024.
10. Quilts must be a single unit and may not be framed with wood, metal, etc. No rods may be sewn into a quilt. Odd-shaped quilts and quilts with multiple panels must be mounted on black fabric containing a sleeve; attach the quilt at the top only, leaving the bottom free for the judges to view the back of the quilt. Quilts made from stamped kits are not eligible. Quilts with electrical components or special lighting cannot be utilized due to fire safety. Quilts must be able to stack with other quilts and be boxed or rolled without possible damage to the quilts.
11. Quilts (except miniatures) must have an attached sleeve for hanging. (Instructions can be found on the AQS website at [www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/aqs-quilt-contests](http://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek/aqs-quilt-contests).)
12. Quilts must be labeled in a bottom corner on the back and should include your name, address, and quilt title. **Prior to shipping, cover your label by securely stitching a piece of fabric over the label with only the quilt title showing.** (If you cover the entire label, be sure the stitched fabric has the quilt title written on it.)
13. AQS contest quilts are NOT for sale.
14. All decisions of the jurors and judges are final. AQS reserves the right to reject any entry or to move a quilt into a different category. AQS juries quilts based on technique as well as appropriate subject matter.
15. **QUILT SHIPPING AND HANDLING:** All accepted quilts must be mailed to our home office in Paducah, KY at the expense of the entrant. You may select to pick up your quilt after the show, hold your quilt for a future contest, include a pre-paid return shipping label, or purchase return shipping through AQS. (The return shipping fee is \$40 inside the Continental U.S. International return shipping cost varies by location; Grand Rapids Ultimate Guild Challenge - all 8 quilts shipped in one box is \$60.) Details about shipping (including dates), insurance, labels, and sleeves will be provided for all accepted quilts in the notification email. Notifications are emailed on or before the deadline listed on page 3.

Two-Sided Quilts: AQS does not exhibit two-sided quilts. For two-sided quilts, please choose one side to enter.

(Please refer to our Photography Suggestions on page 12.)