

# General Quilt Contest Rules

## These rules apply to all 2024 AQS Quilt Contests:

1. An Entrant 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.*)
    - **ENTRANT(S)** photo from the shoulders up. If you are a group or team of quilters, please use a group photo that includes everyone.
  - 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 11*)
  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 (See page 10). Fabric Panels are not considered Totally Original, fabric designer will be named. 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. Quilt Titles are limited to 35 characters.
  10. 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 2024, 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 2025.
  11. 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 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.
  12. 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)*).
  13. 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*).
  14. AQS contest quilts are NOT for sale.
  15. 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.
  16. **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 \$80*). 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 8.
- Explanation of Entrant(s):**
- *An Entrant is a living quiltmaker(s) that have constructed and/or designed the top layer or completed the entire finished quilt.*
  - *Quilter/Quilted By: Performed the quilting of all three layers together. This can be the Entrant or a paid service. Paid Service Quilters are recognized by name only.*
  - *Other Stitchers: Anyone who has stitched on the quilt that is not listed as Entrant or Quilter.*
2. Only one Entrant per category. An Entrant(s) or Other Stitchers cannot enter two quilts in the same category. The quilter cannot be listed as an entrant, only quilted by, unless it's an agreed collaboration between the quiltmaker and quilter (*any other quilted by work would not be eligible in that 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. Quilts made from stamped kits 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.