

Quilt Show Entry Guidelines

Please remember that suggestions are for improvement and are not meant to be negative. These suggestions are meant to be impartial and often, a quilt that wins at one show may not win at the next – it depends on the competition and the judge!

1. Show Readiness - General Appearance

Quilt should be **clean**;
Should be free of **animal hairs**;
All **threads** should be neatly trimmed;
Markings should be removed.

2. Visual Impact - Color and Design

Balanced design
Use of color/value
Overall appeal

3. Execution of Chosen Construction Technique - Workmanship

Piecing:

Seams and intersections should meet accurately;
Points should be sharp;
Curves & Circles smooth & round
Seam lines should be straight;
Piecing thread should be an appropriate color;
Sashing should accurately line up vertically, horizontally and diagonally
Borders should fit properly without waving or rippling
Miters in borders should line up accurately
Dark fabrics should not **shadow** through lighter fabrics at seams

Applique:

Edges of appliqué motifs should be **well-secured**;
Decorative stitches should be consistently applied;
Curves should be smooth, **circles** should be uniformly circular;
Shadowing should be avoided;
Shapes that are supposed to be alike should be alike.

Embellishments:

Securely attached
Compliments overall design

4. Execution of Quilting Technique

Machine:

Thread tension should be consistent on both front and back;
Starts and stops should be well-handled and secure;
Stitch length should **be even**;
Back tracking should be accurate;
Ditch quilting should remain in the ditch;
Outline quilting should **stay off of** appliqué pieces
Quilting design should complement quilt top
Spaces should be filled with a consistent density of quilting
Parallel lines and grids should run true
Curves and circular designs should be fluid and true

Hand:

Stitches should be **even and straight**;
Knots should be buried;
Traveling stitches should not be visible
Outline quilting should **stay off of** appliquéd pieces

5. Appropriateness of Quilting

Quilting design should **complement** quilt top;
Spaces should be filled with a **consistent density** of quilting;
Parallel lines and grids should run true;
Curves and circular designs should be fluid and true;

6. Borders and Sashings

Straight lines should be straight;
Borders and sashings should be properly **proportioned to blocks**;
Sashings should accurately line up both vertically and horizontally;
Borders should fit properly **without waving or rippling**.

7. Edge Treatment

Binding should **be filled to the edge** with batting; edges should be straight
Avoid rippling in binding application;
Binding should be a **consistent width**;
Binding machine stitches should be straight & evenly applied from all edges;
Hand stitching should be **small, tight, and invisible**;
Miters should be accurate on both front and back;
Square corners should form a **true 90 degree angle**;
Corners should **be consistently treated**.

8. Back of Quilt

Backing should be **free of distortion or tucks**;
Seaming should be **symmetrical and straight**.