

2016 4-H Quilt Challenge and Community Service Project Rules and Guidelines

Overview

The 4-H Quilt Challenge is designed to recognize 4-H members who have completed a Clothing and Textiles project. The following objectives are taught in the Clothing and Textiles project: knowledge of fibers and fabrics, wardrobe selection, clothing construction, comparison shopping, fashion interpretation, understanding of style, good grooming, poise in front of others, and personal presentation skills.

Purpose

The Quilt Challenge and Community Service project will provide youth with the opportunity to utilize their sewing skills gained in the 4-H Clothing and Textiles project to complete a blanket that will be donated to a charity for someone in need. The quilt portion of the challenge allows 4-H members to expand their sewing skills to include quilt design and construction.

Objectives

- Demonstrate the principles of fabric preparation and cutting.
- Set goals to accomplish the construction of a quilting project.
- Construct a quilt of good design, appropriate fabric, and quality workmanship.

Resources

- Quilts of Valor (QOV): <http://www.qovf.org/index.html>
- Project Linus: <http://www.projectlinus.org/>
- Quilt Quest Nebraska 4-H curriculum: <http://4h.unl.edu/web/4hcurriculum/4h1310>

Participation Opportunities

4-H members will have the opportunity to participate at various levels:

Blankets and Quilts that Will Be Donated but Not Judged

- Individuals or groups can create fleece blankets, knitted or crocheted afghans, or quilts to be donated to a charity determined by the individual or group. These blankets, afghans, and quilts **will not be judged**. Individuals and groups should report their donations to the Community Service on-line tracking site: <http://fcs.tamu.edu/clothing/4h/community-service-projects/quilt-challenge/>.

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- Individuals or groups can create fleece blankets and knitted or crocheted afghans to be donated to a local Project Linus (<http://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/>). Check with your local Project Linus for their specific needs and requirements. These blankets, afghans, and quilts (infant and toddler sized) will **not be judged**. Individuals and groups should report their donations to the Community Service on-line tracking site: <http://fcs.tamu.edu/clothing/4h/community-service-projects/quilt-challenge/>.

Quilts that Will Be Judged

- Individuals or groups can create a children's or teen quilt to be donated to a charity of your choice. Approximate sizes of quilts can be the following:
 - Child (45" x 54")
 - Teen (45" x 65")

These quilts **will be judged**. Completed quilts will need to be registered through 4-H CONNECT and will be charged a \$15 fee. After judging, quilts will be returned to the participants to be donated to their local charity.

- Individuals or groups can create a children's or teen quilt to be donated to Project Linus. Approximate sizes of quilts can be the following:
 - Child (45" x 54")
 - Teen (45" x 65")

These quilts **will be judged**. Completed quilts will need to be registered through 4-H CONNECT and will be charged a \$15 fee. After judging, quilts will be returned to the participants to be donated to their local Project Linus chapter, or participants can request that quilts be donated directly to Project Linus following judging.

- Individuals or groups can create a quilt for the Quilts of Valor program. Quilts of Valor is a nationwide program that provides a tangible token of appreciation to our warriors and wounded soldiers here and abroad. The approximate quilt top size is a width of 55" to 72" by a length of 65" to 90" with the backing 3 to 4 inches larger on all four sides. Review the attached handout with the detailed requirements for Quilts of Valor.

These quilts **will be judged**. Completed quilts will need to be registered through 4-H CONNECT and will be charged a \$15 fee. After judging, quilts will either be returned to the participants to be donated to a local recipient or donated directly Quilts of Valor.

2016 Quilt Challenge Guidelines for Blankets and Quilts that Will Be Donated but Not Judged

- *Participation Age:* The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Quilt Challenge is open to any age 4-H Club member. All participants need to be registered on 4-H CONNECT.
- *Eligibility of Quilts and Blankets:* All quilts and blankets must have been made by a 4-H member(s) between the dates of June 1, 2015, and the time of entry. All work must be done by the exhibitor(s). Adults may assist in the design and construction through demonstration only.
- *Number of Entries:* 4-H members may create and donate as many blankets, afghans, or quilts as they want.
- Report donations of blankets, afghans, and quilts on the 2016 4-H Quilt Challenge Blanket Donation on the Community Service on-line tracking site:
<http://fcs.tamu.edu/clothing/4h/community-service-projects/quilt-challenge/>. If possible, provide a photo of your completed item(s).

2016 Quilt Challenge Contest Rules for Quilts to Be Judged

1. *Participation Age:* The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Quilt Challenge is open to any age 4-H Club member. All quilters need to be registered on 4-H CONNECT.
2. *Eligibility of Quilts:* All quilts must have been made by 4-H members between the dates of June 1, 2015, and the time of entry. All work must be done by the exhibitor(s). Adults may assist in the design and construction through demonstration only. Exception: quilts to be quilted by someone other than youth participants (category F).
3. *Number of Entries:* 4-H members may participate in the creation of one (1) quilt to be judged either as an individual or as part of a group.
4. Quilts can be entered into one of the following categories:
 - a. Children Quilt (45" x 54") Pieced
 - b. Children Quilt (45" x 54") Applique
 - c. Teen Quilt (45" x 65") Pieced
 - d. Teen Quilt (45" x 65") Applique
 - e. Quilts of Valor pieced and quilted by 4-H participants
 - f. Quilts of Valor pieced and quilted by someone other than youth participants
5. *Entry Fee for Quilts to Be Judged:* A fee of \$15.00 **per quilt** must be paid for each entry. All entries paid by check must come from the County/Club checking account and made payable to the TEXAS 4-H FOUNDATION. The contact person will register the quilt under their name. In the registration process, there is a place to enter all of the names of individuals in the group.
6. *Entry Deadline:* By midnight on April 15, 2016, all registrations must be submitted on 4-H CONNECT. All club/county checks must be received by April 21, 2016. Quilts need to be mailed in to be judged. The deadline for delivery is May 2, 2016. Mail quilts to:

Angela McCorkle
MS 2251
578 John Kimbrough
Bldg. 1536, Room 145
College Station TX 77843-2251
7. *Disqualification of an Entry:* An entry that does not follow the rules or category guidelines will automatically be disqualified. Disqualifications forfeit all entry fees. A general form letter specifying the reason(s) for disqualification will be sent to the county after Quilt Challenge judging. Reasons for disqualification include:
 - Quilt of extremely poor quality
 - Quilt does not meet category criteria or entered in incorrect category
 - Quilt not labeled correctly to ensure identification
 - Entry fee not paid or only partial fee paid
 - County did not select/certify quilt to represent county
 - Quilt was NOT entered into the 4-H CONNECT system
 - Quilt was not certified by county office in timely manner

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8. *Release of Liability:* The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, or non-displayed quilts. By entry, the 4-H member accepts this release.
9. *Announcement of Results:* Results will be posted on the Texas 4-H website after judging.
10. *Display and Future Rights Use Rights:* By submitting an entry to the contest, the 4-H member grants permission to the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, and any other public or private agency authorized by the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, the use and rights associated to the use of the quilts in promotional publications and other media without compensation. Certain photos of quilts may be used for 4-H program and marketing purposes. By entry, the 4-H member accepts these conditions of display and future use.
11. *Judges:* Judges will determine the placings. Their decision on all entries is final.

2016 Quilt Challenge Contest Awards

- *Quality Awards:* Blue, Red, and White quality awards will be given to entries based on the scoring criteria.
- *Best of Category Awards:* One Best of Category Award will be presented to one quilt in each category.

2016 Display

2016 Display: Quilt photos will be displayed on the Texas 4-H website. Award winners will be identified on the webpage. Quilts will not be displayed at Texas 4-H Roundup due to a lack of secure space for the display.

PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING QUILTS

All entries for the 2016 Texas 4-H Quilt Challenge will be completed using the 4-H CONNECT system. Please read these submission rules very carefully to prevent disqualification of entries!

ENTRY STEPS

1. Quilts need to be completed based on the guidelines listed in the Quilt Challenge packet, which includes the specific criteria for Project Linus and Quilts of Valor.
2. Labeling/Naming Your Quilt:
Charity of your choice, Project Linus, and Quilts of Valor – Please pin a label to the quilt, and include this information:
 - County
 - Contact person
 - Names of quilters
 - Date completed

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Required by Quilts of Valor (<http://www.govf.org/content/labels.html>) – Label may be hand written, embroidered, or purchased.

- The words “Presented to:” followed by a blank space. This is so the recipient's name can be inserted at a later date.
 - First name of quilt-topper, state
 - First name of machine quilter, state
 - Dedication. This can be one dedication or one from each of the QOV makers. Ex: Dedicated to my dad, a WWII veteran.
3. *Submitting your entry:* Between March 15, 2016, and April 15, 2016, all contestants will need to enter their quilt through the 4-H CONNECT system. Clarification – for group quilts, **only one fee** of \$15 needs to be paid. The contact person will register the quilt under their name. In the registration process, there is a place to enter all of the names of individuals in the group.
 4. All quilts need to be packaged in a presentation case. The following website gives one example of a presentation case. There are many others that you can use. A ready-made pillow case may also be used.
 - Sausage Pillow Case <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLnrC9yo8tY>
 5. Quilts need to be mailed in to be judged. **Deadline for delivery is May 1, 2016.** Mail quilts to:
Angela McCorkle
MS 2251
578 John Kimbrough
Bldg. 1536, Room 145
College Station TX 77843-2251

Project Linus: Providing Security through Blankets

The mission of Project Linus is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteers.

Become a “Blanketeer” by creating new, handmade, washable blankets to be given as gifts to seriously ill and traumatized children, ages 0–18. It is Project Linus’ policy to accept blankets of all sizes, depending on local chapter needs. All blanket styles are welcome, including quilts, tied comforters, fleece blankets, crocheted or knitted afghans, and receiving blankets in child-friendly colors.

How to Locate a Project Linus Chapter

To find a local chapter in your area where you can donate blankets, go to www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/, and click on Texas. All Texas chapter coordinators and their contact information will then be listed below the map.

Blanket Guidelines

Colors: Bright, happy, child-friendly

Approximate Sizes:

- Infant (36" x 36")
- Toddler (36" x 48")
- Child (45" x 54")
- Teen (45" x 65")

Materials:

- Acrylic yarn for crochet and knitted blankets
- 100% cotton for quilted blankets
- Fleece

Methods:

- Quilted blankets with traditional quilting of layers or tied
- Crochet or knitted with compact stitches rather than having large holes or lace-type pattern
- Fleece with all selvages removed and edges finished by tying, crochet-edge, or machine-stitched edge

Safety Check:

Please check that completed blankets do not contain any of the following: cat or dog hair, pins, embellishments that could pose as choking hazards such as buttons or other decorative additions.

Serve Your Country: Make a Quilt of Valor

The Quilts of Valor Foundation provides quilts and presentation cases (pillowcases) to service members and veterans who have served in combat and been touched by war. This national foundation is made up of hundreds of local groups, all volunteers. To learn more about Quilts of Valor, go to

<http://www.qovf.org/>.

Under Our Wings (UOW) is a program that allows anyone to participate in national service by making a comforting Quilt of Valor for an American armed services member touched by war.

Quilts of Valor Resources

- Find an official **Under our Wings Quilt Shop**: <http://www.qovf.org/localgov-list.html>

Texas has 21 shops that have registered with Quilts of Valor. Official shops stock patterns and kits appropriate for Quilts of Valor. Nine American fabric companies have produced special collections of American Valor Fabrics especially for Quilts of Valor, which became available in Spring 2011. Quilt shops regularly stock red, white, and blue, so fabrics for QOVs are available at any time. A list, along with a detailed quilt shop comparison chart, is available on the website to see what services are available at each shop.

- **Rookie Program**: <http://www.qovf.org/content/uowrookie.html>

Even if you've never sewn before, you can participate by making a quilt for a combat veteran. An avid quilter, a Coach, will take you under her wings and assist you as you make easy patchwork blocks. Rookies supply the fabric for the quilt.

- **Longarm Quilters**: <http://www.qovf.org/req-longarmer.html>

Once your quilt top is finished, you can request a volunteer longarm quilter to quilt it. QOV longarmers donate the batting and thread. Their turn-around time is 30 days from when they receive your top/backing. They return the quilted QOV back to you (i.e., they pay postage).

Quilts of Valor Bare Bones Table of Requirements		
	DO:	DO NOT:
Fabric	Use high quality 100% cotton quilting weight fabric appropriate for an adult.	Use sheets, thin, stiff, or scratchy fabric.
Pattern	Many free patterns are available on our QOV website and on the Web.	Make rag quilts. Make a whole cloth QOV unless you are a professional quality quilter.
Size	Top: Width 55" to 72" by length 65" to 90". Backing 3 to 4 inches larger on all four sides.	Make quilt top less than minimum or more than maximum.
Binding	Use straight cut or bias double fold binding; join binding pieces with diagonal seams. Apply neatly by hand or machine.	Fold over backing and use as binding or zig-zag binding in place.
Quilting	Machine or hand quilting in an appropriate design (free hand, pantograph, or computer-guided patriotic or generic designs). Balanced stitches of uniform size (5-7 stitches per inch if quilted by hand; 8 -12 stitches per inch if by machine). Low-loft quality batting (Cotton, 80/20, or poly from Pellon, Warm Company; Quilter's Dream; Hobbs).	Tie. Do only stitch in the ditch on a domestic machine or use giant meander. Use high-loft batting.
Label	Must include Quilt of Valor; blank for name of recipient. Should include first name of piecers and quilters.	Include more than your first name and state. Include advertising, political, or religious messages.
Journal	Write a note to the recipient.	Include more than your first name and state. Include advertising, political, or religious messages.
Washing	Wash your quilt after it is quilted and bound. Use a Color Catcher in the machine.	Use scented laundry products. Send a quilt covered in pet hair.
Presentation Case	Make a coordinating pillowcase or bag in which to place your QOV.	Send your quilt without a presentation case.

Questions and Answers:

- Q. What if you have a local cause that you want to support?
- A. We encourage you to create blankets and quilts for local organizations. This year you will have the opportunity to have quilts made for a local charity judged at the state level.
- Q. Where do I get my challenge fabric?
- A. In the past, the Quilt Challenge provided a “challenge” fabric for those interested in creating a quilt. The current format for the Quilt Challenge does not provide challenge fabric. Each individual or group that creates a quilt will provide all of the fabric for their quilt.
- Q. Can adults help youth quilters?
- A. All work must be done by the exhibitor(s). Adults may assist in the design and construction through demonstration only. Exception: quilts to be quilted by someone other than youth participants (category F).