

TRQ 2026 Show Entry Rules & Procedures

The Three Rivers Quilt Show is a juried and judged annual exhibition of quilts sponsored by Three Rivers Quilters, Inc. to promote the art of quilt making. Members and non-members are invited to enter their quilts in the competition. As a juried show, all entries will be evaluated prior to acceptance to the show. Please submit COMPLETED entry forms to have your quilt considered for admission.

Quilts will be judged for overall appearance, construction techniques, color, design and quilting stitch. Quilts will be selected for ribbons and cash prizes at the sole discretion of the judges who reserve the right not to award all of the ribbons/prizes. All entries will be subject to the judging process. Judges have no affiliation with Three Rivers Quilters, Inc.

Show Dates:

April 16-18, 2026

(Thurs. – Sat)

DEADLINE for entries:

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

- All entry forms must be completed, postmarked, and mailed by this date to be considered for admission. They must also be RECEIVED within 3 days of deadline even if postmarked by deadline.
- Members may submit entries in person at Guild meetings up to and including this date.

Entry Form

Entry forms are available on the Three Rivers Quilters website, many quilt shops, and through members.

- Each entry form must give complete *Quilt Design Credits* including whether the quilt was completed from a Kit or Block of the Month (BOM).
- Please pay particular attention to the section on “*Quilting Technique*” and “*Method of Construction for Top*” and check ALL that apply in each section.
- Quilts can be reassigned to a different category at the discretion of the Entries Committee to place quilts in a more suitable category or to combine or divide categories to better facilitate judging.
- Read each Category carefully to determine where your quilt would be best represented. Any

questions may be directed to the Registrar by email.

- When entering more than one quilt, enter a PRIORITY number (1, 2, or 3) to indicate the order of priority you prefer for acceptance consideration. Priority will be considered when the number of qualified entries is excessive and must be limited. TRQ reserves the right to accept entries without consideration of Priority to fill or eliminate categories in order to facilitate judging.

Quilt Entries

- There is a limit of three (3) quilts per entrant.
- All entries must be quilted. A quilted entry consists of three (3) layers, primarily fabric, held together by stitching. Quilting stitches pierce all three (3) layers and are distributed throughout the entry. *EXCEPT for some placed in the Potpourri category if offered; see entry form. No tied quilts will be accepted.*
- All entries must have been completed within the last five (5) years. Please do not submit entries completed before January 1, 2021.
- All entries must be clean, smoke free, labeled, and ready to hang.
- No items entered and shown in previous Three Rivers Quilt Shows will be accepted.

- No weights or mounting devices of any kind should be added to the quilt. No glitter.
- All quilts entered must have the quilt top completed at the time of entry submission and photos.
- Include with entry form (2) **CLEAR 4”x 6”** (maximum size) color photos (non-returnable) for each entry. Photos easily printed at CVS/Walgreens. One full front of entire quilt and one close-up of stitching. Print on the back of each photo your Name and the Name of quilt & size. Indicate and label the TOP of the quilt.
- All entry forms must be signed indicating agreement with the stated conditions of entry.
- Do not enter a quilt that has been quilted by someone else in any of the “SOLO” categories.

Emailed entries will not be accepted.

Entry Fees

- TRQ members in good standing (dues paid) get their first entry for only a \$1 fee: \$10 for each additional entry.
- Non-Members entry fee is \$15 for the 1st entry, \$10 for each additional entry.
- Checks should be made out to “Three Rivers Quilters, Inc.” (no cash, *exception for TRQ members \$1 fee*)

- Entry fees will not be returned unless a category is eliminated and entries cannot be reassigned appropriately.

Acceptance/Decline Notifications

Notifications will be mailed by **March 27, 2026**. If you do not receive notification, please call or email the Registrar. Monitor your email as delays may be communicated using email.

Miscellaneous Rules

- Categories may be eliminated if insufficient entries are received.
- Entries may be re-assigned to an appropriate category if a category is eliminated or the entrant selects an inappropriate category.
- TRQ may publish photographs and descriptions of entries in any media and to post the list of winners on Guild Website (www.threeriversquilters.org).
- TRQ may reject any entry at show time if we discover the rules were violated.

- TRQ may divide categories according to size depending on the number of entries.
- All entries **MUST** remain on display for the duration of the show.

Security

- Building is locked down after hours. Admission to the Loft Conference center is limited to select personnel.
- Area around the building is patrolled by routine police patrols.

Insurance

- Insurance during the show will be provided by Three Rivers Quilters, Inc. in the following amounts: \$500 for quilts greater than 48" on the shortest side; \$100 for quilts shorter than 48" on the shortest side. Be sure to include your quilt on your homeowner's policy or seek additional insurance from an agent if you desire more than our standard coverage.

Shipping

- Shipping costs to and from the show, including insurance during shipping, are the responsibility of the entrant.
- Due to the rising cost of postage, entrants must provide a **PREPAID return label**.
- Be sure the box you ship your quilt in is sturdy enough to withstand the return shipping and large enough to permit the refolding and packing of your quilt.

Quilts for Sale

- If your quilt is available for sale, a sale price must be indicated on the entry form; however, further negotiations are permissible.
- A 15% handling fee will be collected from all sales resulting from quilts being displayed and offered for sale in the Three Rivers Quilt Show.

Requirements for Accepted Quilts

(Notifications of acceptance will be emailed or mailed by **March 27, 2026**)

Delivery Dates

- All accepted quilts must be finished and received by date stated on acceptance letter.
- Accepted quilts can be hand delivered to designated local TRQ members by dates stated on acceptance letter.
- Names, addresses and times of delivery points will be given in your acceptance letter.
- Mailed entries must arrive at the designated address (provided in your acceptance letter) by April 11, 2026.

Preparing your Quilt for Display at the Show

- All quilts must be clean, labeled, and ready to hang: "Show Ready."
- **CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:** Check your entry carefully for animal hair, smoke, or other odors, and stray pen or pencil marks, as well as more obvious stains. Try to remove these and you enhance everyone's appreciation of your entry and the art of quilt making. Please be attentive if you have a wood-burning stove for a smoky odor.
- Attach a sleeve to the back of each quilt so that it is not

visible from the front. To construct the sleeve, use a piece of fabric 8 or 9 inches wide and as long as the width of the quilt across the top, but no longer than 96 inches. Hem the two (2) short ends.

- Fold in half lengthwise and sew the top of the sleeve no more than 90 inches from the bottom of the quilt. Quilts which exceed 90" in length when hung will be draped or pleated over an additional pole midway in the quilt. **Attach your sleeve to no more than 90" from the bottom of the quilt if you do not want your quilt draped.**

- Make sure the stitches do not come through to the front of the quilt and be sure to sew both the top and bottom of the sleeve.
- Wide quilts are recommended to have **a split sleeve**. This will allow an additional support hook to be placed in the middle of the quilt.
- Each quilt must have an identification label firmly attached (no straight pins!) on the back of the quilt (lower right-hand corner) which includes the title of the quilt,

- Each quilt entry must be delivered in a **cloth bag or pillowcase** with entrant's name, address, and phone number written in permanent or indelible marker. No plastic bags! PLEASE: Make sure the bag is big enough to easily hold your quilt when folded and not overly large for small or miniatures. Our members must return your quilt to this bag TWICE (after judging and at the end of show) - make it easy for them! Your quilt will be returned in this same bag at the close of the show.
- **\$3 charge if we have to provide the bag.**

the owner's name and home address, and phone number.

- To ensure impartiality in judging, baste a plain piece of muslin loosely over the top of your identification label (and any other label) so that your personal information is hidden. You may baste using thread or safety pins.
- Fold your quilt 'wrong-side' out so the identification label with muslin cover shows prominently on top.
- As you slip your quilt in the bag, keep the label (covered with muslin) on top near the opening of the bag. It should be easy for us to pin a TRQ judging label on the muslin without removing the quilt from the bag.
- **NO fragile embellishment, special hanging apparatus, frames, etc. without prior approval of the Registrar.**
- **NO Electrical elements may be included on your quilt. This includes battery operated lights or effects.**
- We reserve the right to refuse to hang a quilt that is not properly prepared or is too large for hanging.

Admission/Attendance to Show

- Each entrant will be given one Exhibitor Ribbon. The exhibitor's ribbon will allow you to attend the show as often as you wish during the regular hours of the Quilt Show.
- Group entries will be given one Exhibitor Ribbon. This ribbon

will allow 1 entrant to attend the show as often as they like.

- Please feel free to stand beside your quilt at the show and let those attending know it is yours! Attendees love to ask questions and they love to meet the quilters.
- **At 3PM on Saturday (last day of show)** the quilt winning the Viewer's Choice award will be announced. All raffle drawings will be held, winners announced, and prizes distributed to those in attendance. You need not be present to win, however, you are responsible for arranging to pick up any items you win once being notified. Unclaimed items will be retained by the guild to use at their discretion.

Quilt Pickup

- The show will close promptly at 4PM on Saturday. Everyone not involved in closing activities **MUST** exit the main showroom and wait in the designated hallway to reclaim their quilt.
- Prize money (cash) and ribbons will be distributed with your quilt when it is picked up.
- **Quilts will be ready for return at 5:30 p.m. If you choose to leave the building you MUST RETURN NO LATER THAN 6:00 p.m. to reclaim your quilt.**
- Unless you have made arrangements for your quilt to be mailed, quilts must be picked up after the show. **If you cannot wait to pick up your quilt, please make**

arrangements for us to mail it to you at your expense.

- **NO QUILTS WILL BE RELEASED EARLY!**
- Your acceptance letter will serve as your “claim check” to reclaim your quilt. You **MUST** show the acceptance letter to identify yourself as the owner of the quilt.

Awards

- Award money, ribbons, and judge’s critiques will be handed out at pick up.
- Three Rivers Quilters considers the entrant to be the "owner" of the quilt. As such, the entrant will be the recipient of any ribbon(s) or prize money awarded. Ribbons are awarded to the QUILT, not individuals; therefore, duplicate ribbons are not available.
- A **‘Quilters Recognition’ Ribbon** is awarded to any quilt winning a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or “Honorable Mention” place that has been quilted by someone other than the entrant. Please see your quilter gets the ribbon awarded to them.

Categories (no entries can exceed 96” maximum width)

- Please see the entry form for categories and detailed descriptions.

- Categories receiving fewer than 5 entries may be merged with other categories or eliminated.

Kits/BOM Category – A Greater Explanation

- This category is for “Pieced” quilts that have been created using a Kit and fabric (any or all) from that kit; also, for Block of the Month quilts using the pattern and fabrics provided each month. Some substitutions of the pre-chosen fabric will not eliminate the quilt from this category unless none of the fabric was used, only the pattern.
- Having a dedicated category for pieced quilts created from Kits & Block of the Month patterns with pre-chosen fabrics allows those quilts to compete against each other on workmanship for top prizes.
- A dedicated category assures entrants of equal/fair competition to win ribbons and money.

Quilts in Other Categories made from Kits or Block of the Months with fabric provided

- Applique, Modern, Art, Mixed Tech, and Potpourri may contain Kits/BOM quilts. Therefore, quilts in those categories may compete against quilts where the maker has chosen their own fabric.

- In fairness, Kits/BOM quilts with pre-chosen (any or all) fabrics in these categories may be identified as such to the judges.
- Quilts created with Kits or BOM patterns and fabric are not eligible for our Best of Show or Best Use of Color awards.

AWARDS & PRIZES

All Categories (Ribbon & Prizes):

All entries are eligible for Category ribbons & prizes.

First Place - \$ 100.00

Second Place - \$ 75.00

Third Place - \$ 50.00

Honorable Mention – Ribbon only award



Special Awards (Ribbon & Prizes):

Best of Show - \$200.00

- Kits and Block of the Month quilts are not eligible for this award. A quilt made from a Kit or BOM pattern where the fabrics have been pre-selected by a quilt shop or designer, even if some fabrics are substitutes.

Best Hand Quilting - \$100.00

- To be eligible the entire quilt must be the work of ONE person. If someone else hand quilted your quilt it is not eligible for this award.

Best Machine Quilting/ Stationary Machine - \$100.00

- To be eligible the entire quilt must be the work of ONE person. If someone else machine quilted your quilt it is not eligible for this award.

Best Machine Quilting/ Moveable Machine - \$100.00

- To be eligible the entire quilt must be the work of ONE person. If someone else machine quilted your quilt it is not eligible for this award.

Best Use of Color - \$100.00

- Kits and Block of the Month quilts are not eligible for this award. A quilt made from a kit or BOM pattern where fabrics have been pre-selected by a quilt shop or designer, even if some fabrics are substitutes.

Best Hand Embroidery - \$100.00

Viewer's Choice - \$50.00 – awarded by Attendees

Judge's Recognition – Special appreciation by the Judges

Chairman's Choice - Non-Judged – awarded by Show Chairs & Registrar