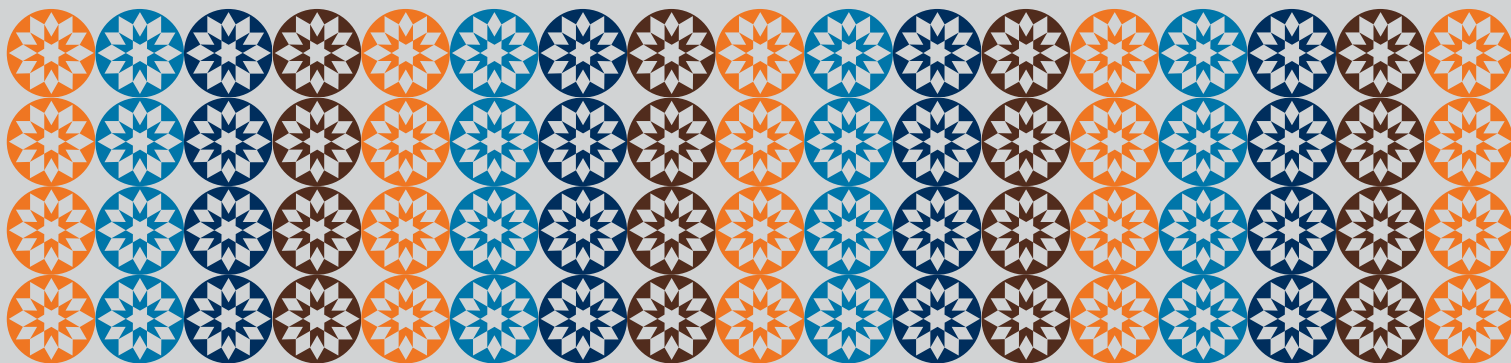


# HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO™



## 2026 QUILT CONTEST RULEBOOK





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For more information or to enter the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Quilt Contest visit [www.rodeohouston.com](http://www.rodeohouston.com) or scan the QR code below:



Be sure to add [quiltcontest@rodeohouston.com](mailto:quiltcontest@rodeohouston.com) to your address book so we don't end up in your SPAM folder.



## ENTRY DEADLINE / DISPLAY INFORMATION



Quilt entries must have been constructed within the past two (2) calendar years. (January 2024 through December 2025)

### September 8, 2025

- Call for entry opens - **ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY**
- Entry form can be found at [rodeohouston.com](http://rodeohouston.com) or by scanning the QR code below:



- **Only one (1) entry is allowed per person.**

### January 14, 2026

- **Entry Deadline**
- Entry forms must be submitted by 4 p.m. on this date.
- Entries must be received in the HLSR offices by 4 p.m. on this date.
- Any quilts who do not have a completed online entry form will not be accepted/judged.
- **If shipping your entry, please address to: Ashly Thornton**  
HLSR Quilt Contest  
3 NRG Park  
Houston, TX 77054
- Entries can be delivered to the HLSR offices Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of NRG Center.

### March 2, 2026

- Results posted on [rodeohouston.com](http://rodeohouston.com)

### February 23, 2026

- Complimentary tickets are sent to exhibitors whose quilt has been judged. Please see information below.

### March 2 - 22, 2026

- Quilts will be on display on the first floor of NRG Center across from the Hall C lobby.
- HLSR reserves the right to exhibit the quilts as space and criteria permit.



## ENTRY DEADLINE / DISPLAY INFORMATION



**April 6-10, 2026\*\***

- Entries will be returned shipped or available for pick up in the HLSR offices.
- If you are picking up your quilt you must make arrangements prior to arrival. Reach out to [quiltcontest@rodeohouston.com](mailto:quiltcontest@rodeohouston.com) to make a pick up arrangement.

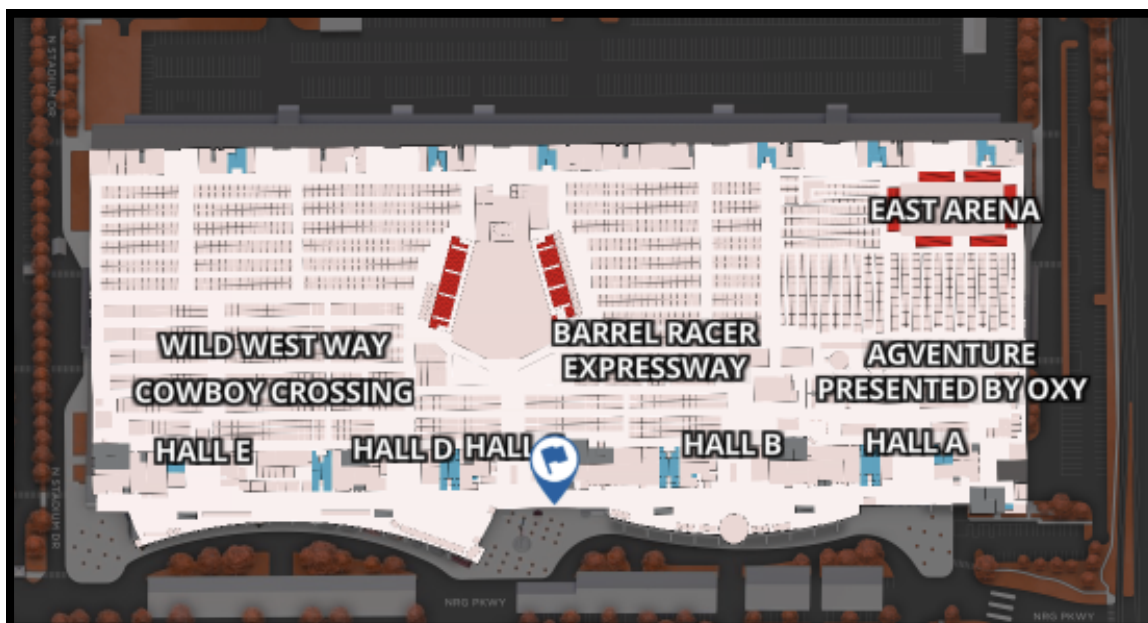
**\*\*There is an opportunity for some of the award winning quilts from the exhibit to travel and be displayed in the Texas Quilt Museum and International Quilt Festival - Houston. Travel would be at the quilter's discretion. Quilts will be returned to the exhibitor by Quilts Inc., in November 2026 (approximate date).**

### **\*\*NEW FOR 2026\*\***

Exhibitors whose quilts are judged will receive two (2) complimentary NRG Park grounds passes for use during the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Tickets will be sent digitally via the AXS ticketing system and require an AXS account. The account is free to create and the app can be downloaded onto your mobile phone.

The quilt display is located on the first floor of NRG Center across from the Hall C lobby.





## ADULT CLASSIFICATION



There are two (2) divisions in the adult classification, each with five (5) categories. For reference, classification definitions are listed below.

### Divisions:

1. Machine Quilting
2. Hand Quilting

### Categories:

1. Applique
2. Piecework
3. Pictorial
4. Modern
5. Mixed Technique

### Category Definitions:

1. **Applique** - A quilt where applique is featured as the dominant technique, either by terms of the quantity used or the overall visual impact. While pieced blocks may be included, the applique work must clearly take precedence. The quilt must be more than 75% applique.
2. **Piecework** - All traditional pieced quilts for use on a bed, lap, or wall hanging.
3. **Pictorial (Themed Quilt)** - A quilt that depicts a recognizable image, such as objects, still life, wildlife, cityscapes, people, and figures.
4. **Modern** - A quilt that exhibits at least some or any of the following elements: bold colors/prints, high/low contrasts, graphic areas of color, improvisational piecing, minimalism or maximalism (in color, piecing, etc...)
5. **Mixed Technique** - A quilt that includes any technique or combination of techniques not covered in other categories.

**Only one (1) entry per person is allowed. If you are a member of an Area Go Texan of Metro Area Go Texan Committee, you may submit one (1) entry in each classification (adult and youth).**



## ADULT CLASSIFICATION



### Judging - Adult Classification

Quilts will be judged in the following areas:

- **Overall Appearance** - Condition of the quilt, neatness, pleasing feel, appearance, uniqueness, and relationship of the border to the quilt.
- **Workmanship** - Accuracy of piecing or applique, quality of stitching, bindings, and corners.
- **Sustainability/Color** - Compatibility of materials to function and to each other, and design and color in relationship to intended use.
- **Originality** - Deviations of familiar patterns as well as total design.
- **Design** - Scale, placement, unity, distinctness, originality, and relationship of quilting and design.

### Awards - Adult Classification\*\*

Awards for the adult classification are as follows:

- Best of Show
- Two (2) Best of Division
- Ten (10) Best of Category
- Two (2) Judges Choice - In recognition of special merit as designated by each judge.
- Committee's Choice - Voted as the favorite by the quilt subcommittee members.
- Blue, Red, White, and Green Ribbons

**\*\* Ribbon distribution will vary at the discretion of the quilt subcommittee based on the entries received.**

**Exhibitors whose quilts are judged will receive two (2) complimentary NRG Park grounds passes for use during the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.**

**Tickets will be sent digitally via the AXS ticketing system and require an AXS account. The account is free to create and the app can be downloaded onto your mobile phone.**



## YOUTH CLASSIFICATION



There are two (2) divisions in the youth classification:

### Divisions:

1. Machine Quilting
2. Hand Quilting

**Only one (1) entry per person is allowed**

All workmanship (including quilting and finishing) must be done by an individual or group within the youth age range to qualify for the youth classification. Youth age range is defined as 21 years of age or below as of December 31, 2025.

### Judging - Youth Classification\*\*

Quilts will be judged in the following areas:

- **Overall Appearance** - Condition of the quilt, neatness, pleasing feel, appearance, uniqueness, and relationship of the border to the quilt.
- **Workmanship** - Accuracy of piecing or applique, quality of stitching, bindings, and corners.
- **Sustainability/Color** - Compatibility of materials to function and to each other, and design and color in relationship to intended use.
- **Originality** - Deviations of familiar patterns as well as total design.
- **Design** - Scale, placement, unity, distinctness, originality, and relationship of quilting and design.

### Awards - Youth Classification\*\*

Awards for the youth classification are as follows:

- Best of Show
- Two (2) Best of Division
- Two (2) Judges Choice - In recognition of special merit as designated by each judge.
- Committee's Choice - Voted as the favorite by the quilt subcommittee members.

**\*\* Ribbon distribution will vary at the discretion of the quilt subcommittee based on the entries received. Youth entries may be further categorized at the discretion of HLSR. If further categorization takes place, additional ribbons may be awarded.**





## YOUTH CLASSIFICATION



### Awards - Youth Classification Continued

Exhibitors whose quilts are judged will receive two (2) complimentary NRG Park grounds passes for use during the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Tickets will be sent digitally via the AXS ticketing system and require an AXS account. The account is free to create and the app can be downloaded onto your mobile phone.

### **\*\*NEW FOR 2026\*\***

Scholarships will be awarded to the following youth winners:

- **Best of Show** : \$1,000\*\*
- **Best of Division - Machine Quilting** : \$500
- **Best of Division - Hand Quilting** : \$500

**\*\* The best of Show winner will only be eligible for one scholarship.**

Winning students will be paid via HLSR company check. All winners must submit a W-9 before their payment is processed. Checks will be sent out by April 10, 2026 if winners have submitted the required form. **W-9's must be submitted by Monday, March 31, 2026 for winners to receive payment.**





## CONTEST INFORMATION



Entry is open to quilters residing the in the following Texas Counties:

Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bosque, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Colorado, Comanche, Coryell, DeWitt, Falls, Fayette, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Grimes, Hamilton, Harding, Harris, Harrison, Henderson, Hill, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, McLennan, Milam, Mills, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Panola, Polk, Refugio, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Williamson

### Contest Format

Quilts will be submitted for judging in a private session by qualified judges. The judge's comment sheets and award ribbon(s) will be mailed back with the quilt or available during quilt pick up.

### Contest Rules

1. Only one (1) entry is allowed per person. Members of an Area Go Texan or Metro Area Go Texan Committee may submit one entry in each classification - adult and youth.
2. Call for entry opens on September 8, 2025. Only online entries will be accepted. Entry forms can be found at [rodeohouston.com](http://rodeohouston.com).
3. Quilts must have been constructed within the past two (2) calendar years. January 2024 through December 2025.
4. Entry form requires three (3) photos (full front view, detail/close up of front, and back view), a 50 word or less artist statement, and a \$30 entry fee.
5. Pieces that have been on prior exhibit at HLSR are not eligible to return.
6. Quilts must consist of three (3) layers: backing, batting, and top. (Exclusions include yoyo quilts, cathedral window style quilts, and crazy quilts).
7. Quilt must be applique, pieced or any combination of quilting techniques. Quilting and piecing of the quilt may be done by machine or by hand. If machine quilted, each block must be  $\frac{2}{3}$  quilted.
8. The maximum size permitted is 108" x 108". Smaller quilts will be accepted. When measuring quilts a tape measurer should be used.
9. **YOUTH CLASSIFICATION ONLY - All workmanship, including quilting and finishing, must be done by an individual or group within the youth age range to qualify for the youth classification. Youth age range is defined as 21 or below on December 31, 2025. If any part of the quilt was worked on by an individual older than 21, the quilt will be judged in the adult classification.**



## CONTEST INFORMATION



### Contest Rules Continued

10. No pre-printed quilt cloth (cheater cloth), pre-quilted fabric, or pre-printed whole cloth quilt tops may be used.
11. Manufactured quilts will not be accepted.
12. Quilts made from mass produced kits will not be accepted. This includes block of the month quilts made from fabrics pre-selected for the quiltmaker. (Block of the Month patterns will be allowed ONLY if the quiltmaker has selected their own fabric.
13. Trademarked logos, slogans, and licensed characters are not permitted in part or in whole and will be disqualified. This also applies to the title of the artwork. Please note that prohibited logos include professional teams, college, school, and district logos.
14. Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring that their entry complies with all applicable copyright laws.
15. Entries made using a published design, pattern, or digital embroidery must acknowledge book, pattern, and/or designer. Credit must be given to the author, teacher, artist, etc... who inspired the work if applicable.
16. Quilts may be made by either an individual or by a group of quilters, but acknowledgment must be given to anyone participating in the execution of the quilt, and all participants must reside within an eligible Texas county. Please see county list at the beginning of this section.
17. Quilts that require special handling will not be accepted. Quilts must be able to be stacked, boxed, and folded with other pieces without damage to itself or other quilts.
18. Quilts must arrive clean and in good condition. Quilts found to be soiled, ripped, torn, stained, or found to have an unpleasant odor will be disqualified.
19. Quilts must be delivered enclosed in a sturdy, large, clear, appropriately sized bag with a working zipper and without wire support. DO NOT USE A PILLOWCASE OR CLOTH BAG. To protect the quilt, the bag must be in good working condition. Quilts not submitted in such a bag will be subject to a \$5 fee for the provision of this bag.
20. Each quilt entry must have a four (4) inch finished double casing sewn across the full width of the back of the top edge for hanging on a rod display. This is called a sleeve. This sleeve needs to be stitched on the top and bottom. For more information, please see the sleeve/casing instructions below.
21. A label must be sewn on the back of each quilt. This label must be embroidered, typed, or written with a fabric pen on muslin. DO NOT use a ballpoint pen. Label must include the name of the quilt, quiltmaker(s) name(s), quilt owners name, and contact information. Prior to submission, this label should be covered by a 3"x 5" index card using safety pins to attach it temporarily to preserve anonymity during the judging process.
22. Judges decisions are final. HLSR reserves the right to decline any entry.



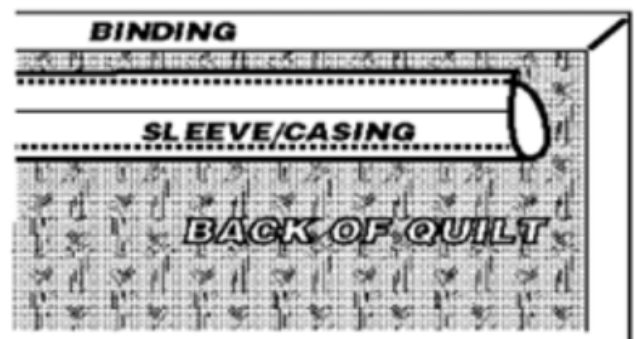
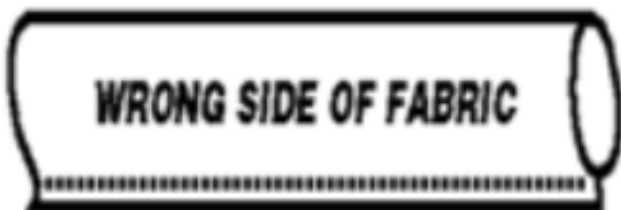
## SLEEVE AND CASING INSTRUCTIONS



A sleeve or casing is the most practical way to prepare a quilt for hanging without damaging the quilt in any way. It is perhaps the simplest and most efficient method because a rod can be inserted and suspended between standards.

To make a sleeve or casing:

- Cut a strip 9" wide and 1" longer than the top of your quilt. Finish the end by turning the raw edges of each end toward the wrong side approximately 1/4"; then turn under again stitching in place by hand or machine.
- Fold the strip in half, lengthwise, right sides together and stitch, using 1/2" seam allowance.
- Press the sleeve so that the seam is centered on the back of the sleeve.
- The sleeve is stitched to the back of the quilt with the seam to the outside, lessening abrasion to the quilt while it hangs.
- Hand stitch the sleeve across the top backside of the quilt. Place the sleeves just under the binding (or approximately 1/2" from the top edge of the quilt). Stitch through ALL layers, using 1/4" stitches on the front of the quilt and 1/2" to 3/4" stitches on the backside. The stitches should go through all layers of the quilt so there is less strain on the quilt. The 1/4" inches on the front will not show or will show so little they will not be seen from the exhibiting distance, especially if you use a neutral or coordinating thread color.
- Begin stitching in the center of the quilt and work out to one side. Repeat from the center out to the other side. Repeat for the bottom edge of the sleeve/casing.





## SHIPPING AND INSURANCE POLICY



Exhibitors are responsible for shipping or dropping off their entry to HLSR:

- Shipped entries should be addressed as follows:  
Ashly Thornton  
HLSR Quilt Contest  
3 NRG Park  
Houston, TX 77054
- Entries can be dropped off to the HLSR offices Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office is located on the 2nd floor of NRG Center. Please enter NRG Park grounds via Gate 10 (Kirby and McNee). Let the guard know you are here to drop off an HLSR entry so you are not charged for parking.

HLSR will be responsible for return shipping as follows:

- Quilts will be returned via FedEx two weeks after the closure of the 2026 Show, insuring it for \$500 (delivery only) with a signature required upon delivery. **NO PO BOXES ARE ALLOWED - PHYSICAL ADDRESSES ONLY.**
- If delivery attempts fail and the quilt is returned to the HLSR offices, arrangements must be made to pick up your quilt. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will assume no liability for quilt entries.
- HLSR will insure each accepted entry against damage from the time we receive the entry until it is in the hands of the return courier, up to the value amount on the entry form or a maximum of \$500 whichever value is lowest. It is highly recommended that entries value over \$500 be appraised and the exhibitor obtain additional insurance to cover any damage to the entry while in transit and at HLSR.
- There is an opportunity for some of the award winning quilts from the exhibit to travel and be displayed in the Texas Quilt Museum and the International Quilt Festival - Houston. Travel would be at the quilter's discretion. Quilters who give permission for their quilts to travel should expect those quilts to be returned in November 2026 by Quilts, Inc.