

These are the rules for the 2008 (this year's) Show and the rules for the 2009 show will come out in the fall. I talked to the local Go Texan Committee member, James Riley, and he believes that the 2009 rules will be similar. As soon as I have the 2009 rules I will send them to the web site and let the Guild know about any changes. Jo Ann Williams

2008 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Quilt Contest Rules

An original entry from, and two copies, and two color photos of the quilt, must be submitted with the quilt on Jan. 24, 2008. Quilts will not be accepted after this date.

DISPLAY

Winning entries will be displayed in Reliant Center from March 3-22, 2008. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo reserves the right to exhibit quilts as space and criteria permit.

JUDGING

Quilts will be judged in the following five areas:

1. Overall Appearance – Condition of the quilt, neatness, pleasing feel, appearance, uniqueness, and relationship of borders to quilt.
2. Workmanship – Accuracy of piecing or appliqué, quality of stitching, bindings and corners.
3. Suitability/Color – Compatibility of materials to function and to each other, and design and color in relationship to intended use.
4. Originality – Deviations of familiar patterns as well as total design.
5. Design – Scale, placement, unity, distinctiveness, originality and relationship of quilting design.

AWARDS

Ribbons will be awarded as follows: Best of Show, Best of Division, blue, red, white or green. There also will be ribbons awarded as "Judges' Choice" in recognition of special merit as designated by the judges of the quilt contest. A final ribbon will be awarded to the quilt voted as the favorite by the quilt subcommittee members.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility will be determined by Area Go Texan or Houston Metro Go Texan Committee officials. Each quilt entry must be constructed within the geographical boundaries of the Go Texan Committee if represents within the past two years. Only one quilt entry per county or subcommittee will be allowed.

**Contestants may represent only on of the following Go Texan committees;
Area Go Texan or Houston Metro Go Texan.**

Area Go Texan Committee – Includes one quilt from each of the following counties:

Anderson, Angelina, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Calhoun, Cherokee, Colorado, DeWitt, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Goliad. Gonzales, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harrison, Henderson, Hill, Houston,. Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, McLennan, Milam, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Panola, Polk, Refugio, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Washington, Wharton, and Williamson counties.

Houston Metro Go Texas Committee - Includes the following committees: Aldine/Spring/Klein, Alief/Southwest, Alvin/Pearland, Baytown/Highlands, Brazoria Southwest, Channelview/Sheldon, Chambers County, Conroe/Willis/The Woodlands, Crosby/Huffman, Cypress-Fairbanks, Fort Bend/Stafford, Galveston Mainland, Humble/Kingwood, Jacinto City/Galena Park, Katy, Lamar/Needville,

LaPorte, Liberty County, NASA/Clear Creek/Friendswood, New Caney/Splendor, Pasadena/Deer Park, Spring Branch/Memorial, Tomball/Magnolia/Montgomery and Waller County.

CONTEST FORMAT

Quilt entries will be judged in a private session, and the winners will be notified in writing prior to the Show.

RULES

1. Only colorfast fabrics that have been pre-shrunk are to be used in the quilts entered in the contest. Any fabric used should be no more than 50 percent synthetic fiber, including backing, except for crazy quilts. A quilt must consist of three layers: a backing, a batting and a top. *Note Rule 9 for machine quilted.*
2. Double knits may not be used. No pre-printed quilt cloth (cheater cloth) may be used. Quilter's ink WILL be acceptable. No manufactured quilts will be accepted.
3. Quilt may be made either by an individual or by a group of quilters. **Manufactured quilts will not be accepted.**
4. Quilts may not be entered in this contest more than one time.
5. Maximum size permitted: 108" X 108". Smaller quilts and wall hangings will be accepted (see rule 10 for wall hanging division size requirements). When measuring quilts, a metal tape measure should be used.
6. Quilts must be **clean and in good condition**. Soiled or stained quilts will be rejected.
7. Each quilt entry must have a 4-in. finished double casing sewn in across the full width of the back of the top edge for hanging on a rod in the display. This is called the sleeve. This sleeve needs to be stitched on the top and bottom. See directions on the following page.
8. A label must be sewn on the back of each quilt. The label must be embroidered or typed on muslin. DO NOT use ballpoint pen. Label must include the name of the quilt, quilt owner's name and the county name for Area Go Texan contestants or area name for Houston Metro and Houston General Go Texan contestants.
9. Quilts may be appliquéd, pieced or any combination of quilting techniques. Quilting and piecing of the quilt may be done by machine or hand. Machine quilted and each block must be 2/3 quilted (but no quilting through appliqué design).
10. There are six divisions in the quilt contest: appliqué, piecwork, pictorial (theme quilt), wall hanging (minimum size: 18" x 18", maximum size 60" x 60"), machine quilting and mixed media (includes any technique not covered in other specific categories).
11. Quilts must be enclosed in a sturdy, large, clear, appropriately sized blanket bag with a working zipper (may not be a pillow case). To protect the quilt, the bag must be in good condition. **Quilts not submitted for entry in such a bag will be subject to a \$5 fee for the provision of this bag.**
12. Two color photos and two copies must accompany the original entry form. Photo must be labeled with owner's name, address, zip code plus four-digit code, telephone number and the name of the county or area the quilt represents. Quilt maybe in progress and not finished in photo. **Quilts turned in without photograph will be charged a \$5 fee for each picture to be made the day of check-in.**

RETURN POLICY

1. Quilt will be mailed to the person designated on the registration form.
2. The Show will mail back the quilt by FedEx, insuring it for \$1000 with a signature required upon delivery. No P.O. Boxes will be allowed – only physical addresses. A business address is preferable. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will assume no liability other than the insured value stated.
3. All quilts will be mailed the week after the close of the Show.

SLEEVE/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 effective method because a rod can be inserted and suspended between standards. To make a sleeve or casing:

- A. Cut a strip 9" wide and 1" longer than the top of your quilt. Finish the ends by turning the raw edges of each end toward the wrong side approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ "; then turn under again stitching in place by hand or machine.
- B. Fold the strip in half, lengthwise, right sides together and stitch, using $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.
- C. Press the sleeve so that the seam is centered on the back of the sleeve.
- D. The sleeve is stitched to the back of the quilt with the seam to the outside lessening abrasion to the quilt and ensuring a flat surface next to the quilt while it hangs.
- E. Hand stitch the sleeve across the top backside of the quilt. Place the sleeve just under the binding (or approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top edge of the quilt). Stitch through ALL layers, using $\frac{1}{4}$ " stitches on the front and $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " stitches on the backside. The stitches should go through all layers of the quilt so there will be less strain on the quilt. The $\frac{1}{4}$ " stitches on the front will not show, or will show so little that they will not be seen from exhibiting distance, especially if you use a neutral or coordinating thread color.
- F. 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.

For more information, please contact Joanna Giacometto, Go Texan Office, at 832.667.1200.