



**45th Annual Smoky Mountain Quilters'
Quilt Show and Competition
June 19-20, 2026**

CATEGORIES			
Category Letter	Category & Description	Number of Makers	Size (Perimeter)
A	Large Pieced – Solo Must be predominantly pieced but may include up to 10% other techniques.	One	277 inches or more
B	Large Pieced – Team Must be predominantly pieced but may include up to 10% other techniques.	Two or More	277 inches or more
C	Small Pieced – Solo Must be predominantly pieced but may include up to 10% other techniques.	One	Less than 277 inches
D	Small Pieced – Team Must be predominantly pieced but may include up to 10% other techniques.	Two or More	Less than 277 inches
E	Large Appliquéd and/or Mixed Techniques – Solo Predominantly appliquéd or more than 10% mixed techniques.	One	277 inches or more
F	Large Appliquéd and/or Mixed Techniques – Team Predominantly appliquéd or more than 10% mixed techniques.	Two or More	277 inches or more
G	Small Appliquéd and/or Mixed Techniques – Solo Predominantly appliquéd or more than 10% mixed techniques.	One	Less than 277 inches
H	Small Appliquéd and/or Mixed Techniques – Team Predominantly appliquéd or more than 10% mixed techniques.	Two or More	Less than 277 inches
I	Art Quilts Must be entirely original in design, produced with creative thought and without replicating the work of others. They exceed tradition in construction and appearance.	One	Any Size
J	Pictorial Illustrates a recognizable image (for example: animals, landscape, people, floral, structures, etc.) Any patterns used must be significantly modified.	One	Any Size
K	Junior For entrants age 16 and under. The quilt must be completed by the entrant(s) but can receive instruction and guidance by an adult. All group participants must be age 16 or under. *See additional information on Page 3	Any Number*	Any Size
L	Modern Primarily functional quilts that rely on current bold, graphic fabrics and their placement in the creative process. Some typical characteristics: high contrast and graphic areas of solid color; improvisational piecing; minimalism and expansive use of negative space; asymmetry; exaggerated scale and cropping.	Any Number	Any Size
M	Kits & Alternative Techniques Quilt entries that do not fit into any of the categories previously listed. Examples are Yo-yo, Cathedral Window, T-Shirt, Crazy Quilts, Whole Cloth, Embroidered, etc. Includes all Kits and Block-of-the Month where fabric is supplied with the pattern.	Any Number	Any Size
N	SMQ Members Only 2026 Challenge This category is open only to active SMQ members and is a theme Challenge.	Per Posted Challenge Guidelines	Per Posted Challenge Guidelines

Smoky Mountain Quilters General Entry Information

General Information

Quilts in this competition are not juried, but are limited to the first 200 entries received. **We may reach capacity before the entry deadline.** Quilts will be judged for overall appearance, construction techniques, color, design, creativity, and quilting stitch. Consideration will be given to the appropriateness of the category in which they are entered. The show committee has the right to move a quilt to another category when it does not meet the category specifications or the show committee feels it would do better in a different category. Ribbons will be given to all winners. Cash prizes will be awarded to Best in Show, Large; Best in Show, Small; First, Second, and Third Place winners in each category. Special Awards winners will receive cash prizes in addition to their ribbons.

Your quilt's safety and security are important to us. The quilts will be shown at the Knoxville Expo Center in Knoxville, Tennessee. White gloved attendants will be on hand during viewing hours, and the showroom is secured when the event is closed.

Definitions

- **Original Design:** A completely new design and must not be a copy of a previous work. Patterns or designs by others cannot be used.
- **Perimeter:** The length of the outside edge in inches. Measure all the sides and add them all together.

Design Permissions and Copyright Releases, Including Purchased Patterns

When your entry is the result of using someone else's pattern, artwork, photography, or another quilt as the source of your design, it is advised that you ask for and receive that person's permission to display your work in public. Purchasing a commercial pattern, book, or magazine gives you permission to make the quilt for your own use, but does not grant permission to publicly display the quilt or use it for commercial purposes.

The design they created is their intellectual property. Even if you alter their design or use only a portion of their design, it is considered a derivative work of their original design. Asking the creator for this permission is generally a pleasant experience. Permission can be in the form of a permission letter or email and should be specific to the permission granted. Keep this with your important records so you can produce it when asked. This is protection for you and for any show or venue where the work is displayed.

Disclaimer— The copyright information presented in this document is made available by the International Quilt Association strictly for educational purposes. It is our intent to give you general information and a general understanding of the requirements when entering your quilts for competition and display purposes. Please understand that this is not a substitution for competent legal advice from a licensed professional attorney in your state.

Mailing Instructions will be given once entry forms are received and accepted for the show

Deadline for Entry Forms -----	April 18, 2026	Quilt Show -----	June 19-20, 2026
Mailed quilts to arrive -----	June 8-12, 2026	Friday -----	9 am to 5 pm ----- June 19, 2026
Hand-delivered quilts --	1 pm to 5 pm ----- June 15, 2026	Saturday ----	9 am to 4 pm ----- June 20, 2026

Website www.smokymtnquilters.com

Follow us on Facebook, Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee (Smokymountainquiltersoftn)

Smoky Mountain Quilters' Rules for Entry – 2026

My entry is tied or doesn't have quilting. Is it a quilt?

- Quilt is defined as three layers: top fabric, batting, and backing fabric. Entries must be quilted through all layers. Yo-yo, cathedral window, crazy quilts, and others receiving advance approval are exceptions and do not need to be quilted but may be tied.

What quilts can be entered?

- Entries are limited to a maximum of five per entrant and two per category. The quilt must be made by the entrant, or a team that includes the entrant.
- Quilts must have been completed in the last five years, 2021 or later.
- Previous entries in SMQ shows may not be entered again.

How do I know what category to enter?

- Using the categories grid on page one, select the appropriate category for your entry. Pay close attention to the number of makers, size, and description of the category when making your selection.
- The judge will have the final say in disputes involving categories and reserves the right not to award all the ribbons/prizes.

Who counts as a contributor to my quilt when I decide between team and solo?

- Pattern designers and design sources must be given credit on the entry form, and permission to exhibit a quilt using their design should be sought. However, when choosing between solo and team quilts, we count only people who physically work on the entry quilt and who have contributed a significant amount of work to a judged element of the quilt. For example, making a label or adding a signature are elements deemed insignificant and may not be used as a qualification for a category that requires more than one maker.

What other requirements do you have?

- **Quilts must arrive clean, undamaged, and odor free** (i.e., no tobacco smoke, moth balls, pet odor, etc.) Please remove any pet hair and/or thread trimmings. Odors and debris may transfer to other quilts that touch.
- **Quilts will be folded.** No rigid framing allowed. Quilts requiring special handling or non-standard hanging must be approved in advance of entry. Entries without pre-approval, requiring non-standard handling and/or hanging will be disqualified, and entry fees will not be refunded.
- **Quilts must have labels and hanging sleeves.** Details will be sent after the entry form is processed.
- **All entries must remain with the show** between delivery to the show on Monday and the designated pick-up time on Saturday.
- SMQ reserves the right to reject, re-categorize or not display inappropriate entries. This includes quilts soiled, having an odor, damaged, misrepresented, unqualified, etc. Entry fees for entries that are disqualified or not delivered by the date specified are non-refundable.

How are "Junior" rules different?

- The entry fee is waived for the Junior category this year.
- Juniors may have a sleeve added by a non-junior helper. A sleeve is required to hang the quilt, but if the challenge to add it is too great, we will attach a temporary sleeve.

Still have Questions?

- Email us at QuiltShowSMQ@gmail.com and include your phone number. We'll answer your question by phone or email.