

Getting Your Quilt Ready for a Show

1. Read the show rules and requirements carefully.
2. Double check the deadline date and note if there is going to be a limited number of entries. Be sure to sign the entry form if required after filling it out.
3. Make sure you put your quilt in the right category. Putting your quilt in the wrong category could cost you a ribbon. One person quilt means only one person worked on the quilt.
4. Make sure your label has the info that the particular show is asking for. I always make sure my label is large enough for additional information that a particular show may ask for. For my own information I note the size of the quilt so I don't have to measure repeatedly for each time I enter it. Never use safety pins to pin it on...big NO NO.
5. Make a sleeve that gives plenty of room for your quilt to hang properly. A quilt that is fairly large hangs better if the sleeve is in 2 parts. This allows for smoother hanging in the middle. If your quilt is extra- long, usually over 86 or 90 inches, you'll probably have to put a 2nd sleeve on several inches down from the top of your quilt so that the quilt won't drag on the floor and get soiled. Read your show instructions carefully for sleeve instructions. When you're attaching your sleeve make sure your stitches don't show on the front of your quilt. Don't just use safety pins on the sleeve either...another big NO NO.
6. Check your borders to make sure they aren't wavy. In the construction you should have cut and sewn your borders evenly and squared them. If they have gotten a little pulled out of alignment during the quilting process, block them. Lay your quilt on a flat surface and spritz with water...pat the border back into place...make sure it's square...and let it dry completely. The way your quilt hangs is one of the first things at which a judge looks.
7. If your quilt is dirty, wash it very carefully with a quilt-soap and dry it. Either naturally dry it or Air Dry it in your dryer. However, it's not necessary to wash a quilt before a show if it isn't dirty. But, if you have markings, pencil or otherwise...make sure all markings are gone.
8. Go over your quilt with a "fine tooth comb", front and back. Remove all loose threads, pet hair, etc. Use a lint roller or masking tape and go over every inch of the quilt. If you used a paper guide for quilting, make sure the tiny bits of paper are all removed.
9. Look at the delivery information for the quilt show. Most require a quilt to be delivered in a pillowcase or cloth bag of some type. Fold your quilt carefully before turning it in...it may lay folded for several hours with other quilts stacked on it before it's hung and you want to avoid as many wrinkles as possible. Folding in 3rds or on the diagonal are good ways to fold.

Compiled by Jolene Mershon