

QOV BASICS

Whether you're making a QOV for someone you know or you'd like to donate to the Village Quilters QOV group, there are always questions about the requirements for a QOV. Here are some basic requirements adapted from the National QOVF site for you to consider:

Sizes

- ✧ TVQOV recommends a finished **65" x 76"** as an ideal size for the quilt top with a minimum width size of 64" and a maximum length size of 84". Please note that 2-3" is lost from original top size after quilting and washing so the top needs to be slightly bigger than the ideal finished size above. QOVF recommends an ideal of 60"x80" with a minimum size of 55"x65" and maximum size of 72"x90" (all after washing and quilting).
- ✧ We chose our sizes within the QOVF accepted sizes because of the backing requirements the larger sizes take. Also, many times we award several at a time in a group - keeping fairly uniform sizing helps so group recipients are not getting disparate sized quilts.
- ✧ If you're donating a quilt to TVQOV and you want to donate the backing as well, than please make it 4 inches larger on all four sides. Otherwise, we'll gladly accept your donated quilt top and we'll provide the backing and batting when we have it quilted.

Fabrics & Threads

- ✧ Please use high quality, high thread count, 100% cotton quilting fabric appropriate for an adult. The most important part of your QOV is the fabric you use to piece the top and the fabric used as the backing! As far as pre-washing fabric, it depends on you but if it has white in it, it might be a good idea to prewash to minimize any color migration.
- ✧ Use good quality 50 wt thread for piecing. Also, try to adjust the thread colors as best as you can i.e. please DON'T use white/lite for darker red/blue fabrics and DON'T USE red or navy with white/light fabrics - it shows up way too much!
- ✧ Please adjust your stitch length to the equivalent of 10-12 per inch on your machine. If the stitch is too big, the seam starts to open even before pieces are added to others in a block which results in intersections opening up in the finished product before or after washing.

Patterns

- ✧ Use any pattern that is appropriate for adults. We've got lots in our TVQOV book; you can always look through those to find one you might want to do. Come to a TVQOV meeting or check with the QOV workday lead. There are many free patterns available on the web.
- ✧ The QOVF Foundation has asked that rag quilts, whole cloth quilts or flag replica quilts NOT be used. However, stylized flags within the quilt are OK.

Basic Patterns/Colors/Motifs

- ✧ The most popular colors are Red, White and Blue. Patriotic themes are loved and most often requested. Although 10% of our military are women, when given a choice, most of them choose patriotic colors and/or designs as well. BUT...not all recipients want Red, White, Blue, patriotic. Most often TVQOV uses the patriotic reds and blues in all varieties but we like to add in a touch of many other colors as well such as golds, yellows, creams, plus green if appropriate. Please, what NONE of the recipients want are fabrics which are inappropriate such as fabric showing multi-service insignias and symbols, juvenile fabrics, or florals unless the floral very small and/or is broken up in very small pieces.

Quilting

- ✧ If you are quilting it on your own, machine or hand quilting in any appropriate design - free

hand, pantographs, or computer guided patriotic or generic designs are all great as long as there is balance overall on the quilt top.

- ⤴ Use a low-loft quality cotton or 80/20 batting; NO high-loft batting please.
- ⤴ QOVF requests that we do more quilting than just a stitch in the ditch or a giant meander to give it more suppleness but not so much quilting that it is stiff
- ⤴ QOVF also requests NO tied quilts unless it is also hand or machine quilted.

Binding

- ⤴ TVQOV always uses straight cut or bias double fold binding with a diagonal seam joining. QOVF has asked us NOT to fold over the backing as a binding or zig-zag a binding in place.
- ⤴ TVQOV does most bindings by machine but can also be hand tacked with a close stitch.

Label

- ⤴ TVQOV has labels you can use or they can be adapted for someone you know.
- ⤴ If you want to make your own, it must say it is a Quilt of Valor and may include the name of the piecer and quilter but don't include more than your first name and state unless it is someone you know.
- ⤴ QOVF has asked that we never include any type of advertising, political or religious messages.

Journal

- ⤴ Such a nice added touch but is optional for TVQOV. We do NOT usually include this with our QOVs but if you're donating a QOV to the TVQOV group and you want to include a note or journal, we'll keep it with the quilt for the recipient. It's always a nice gesture when doing one for someone you know.
- ⤴ QOVF again has asked that we never include advertising, political or religious messages.

Washing

- ⤴ TVQOV always washes the quilts with Retayne before we distribute them to make sure they're free of our pet's hair, smoke, fabric dust etc. If you are presenting your own quilt to someone, please consider washing your quilt after it is quilted and bound before giving it to make sure this heirloom does not suffer any color run or seams that may open.
- ⤴ Use Retayne and a color catcher in the machine and/or and try to use unscented products in case of allergy.

Presentation Cases

- ⤴ Make a coordinating pillowcase in which the QOV will be placed. We don't ever award a quilt without a presentation case. We have the pattern if you need it.

Including an Award in the National Database

- ⤴ If making and presenting a QOV on your own, please fill out the TVQOV form found under FORMS on this website and return to QOV lead. We can supply an official QOV certificate to present with your QOV for your recipient; it will be provided to you prior to the time you want to make the award. Otherwise, the form and information will be used to make sure the award is included in the national database. It is how QOVF knows how many QOVs have been presented nationwide and how TVQOV keeps track of how many this group and guild members award.