

Guidelines for the 2026 Great River Quilt Show

1. You must be a member of the Mississippi Valley Quilters Guild for the year your entry is due (September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026) and the year the show is in (September 1, 2026-August 31, 2027). If you were a member of the guild the prior year (2024-2025), a full membership fee of \$35 will be due no matter in which month you are renewing your membership.
2. Item must be entered by August 25, 2026, 11:59 PM.
3. Category sizes may be adjusted by the entry/judging room committees as needed for bed, wall, and art categories to balance numbers for judging.
4. Entries must **not** have been shown in a previous MVQG quilt show.
5. In the bed quilt categories: Proportionate=square or longer than it is wide.
6. Collaborative categories include 2 or more makers. **You must always include the quilter in your thought processes when entering.**
7. To be judged, your entry must have 3 layers (top, batting, and back) quilted together. The exception to that rule is the miscellaneous category where quilts without batting such as crazy quilts, wool quilts, and cathedral windows may be entered.
8. To be judged, the back must be visible. DO NOT cover the back of your work. The judges need to see the BACK as well as the front of your work.
9. A 4-inch sleeve must be attached to the top of the back of the quilt. If your quilt is longer than 90 inches, measure 90 inches up from the bottom and attach the sleeve at that level. Instructions for the sleeve can be found on our website at mvqg.org/great-river-quilt-show
10. Labels Required: Title of quilt and maker's name and anything else you want to include. Best placement is on **the back bottom left corner**.
11. Items should be clean and odor free.
12. For copyright purposes, please identify designer and pattern or recognize the source of inspiration where requested on the entry form.

CATEGORIES/ITEMS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR BEST OF SHOW:

- 1700-Found and Finished
- 1900-Wearables: Garments, Bags, Purses, Accessories
- 2000-Miscellaneous
- 2100 Show Challenge
- 2300-Junior (Non-judged)

ALL OTHER CATEGORIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BEST OF SHOW.

DEFINITIONS:

- **All Hand Done:** Piecing and quilting must be done by hand. Backing may be machine pieced. Binding may be attached by machine but must be finished by hand.
- **Small Bed Quilt:** Crib to Full (up to 69" wide and proportionate in length)
- **Large Bed Quilt:** Queen to King (over 70" wide and proportionate in length)
- **Solo:** Constructed, stitched, and quilted by ONE MAKER ONLY
- **Collaborative:** Constructed, stitched, and quilted by 2 or more makers (piecers and/or quilters). 2 ribbons awarded per placing.
- **Pieced:** Pieced by hand or machine. No other techniques allowed (no embellishments, no appliqué, etc.).

- **Applied Techniques:** Any technique ‘applied to the fabric.’ Appliqué, painting, beading, crystals, etc., or any combination of these techniques is allowed in addition to piecing.
- **Computer Guided Piecing, Embroidery and/or Appliqué:** Any item a computerized embroidery type machine is used. This class is for all items such as bed quilts, wall quilts, tree skirts, bags, etc.
- **Art:** Original designs only—no patterns or kits allowed. Quilts will be required to include a **short** (50 word) artist’s statement listing all techniques/methods used. (This should not include where/why the fabric was purchased.) Statements may be read aloud for the consideration of the judge. The category will be divided into sizes to balance the numbers to be judged.
- **Modern:** May be pattern or kit. Must utilize ‘modern’ style in piecing and quilting design.
- **Wall Quilts:** Designed to hang on a wall.

Categories for 2026 Great River Quilt Show

1100- All Hand Made: Must be made entirely by hand, with no machine sewing/quilting other than sewing the binding to the front of the quilt and piecing the back. All sizes, techniques, makers allowed.

Small Bed Quilts: Used on a bed or crib; up to (and including) 69” wide and proportional in length.

1110- Small Solo, Pieced: One person made top and quilted it. **Only** piecing is allowed, no appliqué or embellishments of any kind will be allowed.

1120- Small Solo, Applied Techniques: One person made top and quilted it. All appliqué, painting, embellishments, combination of techniques with piecing, as well as entirely appliquéd quilts and whole cloth quilts.

1130- Small Collaborative, Pieced: Two or more persons (piecers and/or quilters) worked on any part of making the quilt. **Only** piecing is allowed, no appliqué or embellishments of any kind will be allowed. 2 ribbons will be awarded per placing.

1140- Small Collaborative, Applied Techniques: Two or more persons (piecers and/or quilters) worked on any part of making the quilt. All appliqué, painting, embellishments, combination of techniques with piecing, as well as entirely appliquéd quilts and whole cloth quilts. 2 ribbons will be awarded per placing.

Large Bed Quilts: Used on a bed; wider than 70” and proportional in length.

1210- Large Solo, Pieced: One person made top and quilted it. **Only** piecing is allowed, no appliqué or embellishments of any kind will be allowed.

1220- Large Solo, Applied Techniques: One person made top and quilted it. All appliqué, painting, embellishments, combination of techniques with piecing, etc. as well as entirely appliquéd quilts and whole cloth quilts.

1230- Large Collaborative, Pieced: Two or more persons (piecers and/or quilters) worked on any part of making the quilt. **Only** piecing is allowed, no appliqué or embellishments of any kind will be allowed. 2 ribbons will be awarded per placing.

1240- Large Collaborative, Applied Techniques: Two or more persons (piecers and/or quilters) worked on any part of making the quilt. All appliqué, painting, embellishments, combination of techniques with piecing, as well as entirely appliquéd quilts and whole cloth quilts. 2 ribbons will be awarded per placing.

1300- Computer Guided Piecing, Embroidery and/or Appliqué: Any item a computerized embroidery type machine is used. The computer guided piecing, embroidery and/or appliqué is the predominant design element (50% or more). This class is for all items such as bed quilts, wall quilts, tree skirts, bags, etc.

1400- Miniature: Miniature quilts should look like a full-size quilt or wall hanging that is reduced in scale. The maximum size is 24" x 24". All techniques, all makers.

1500- Modern: Quilt should have a clean, modern design and a strong visual impact. Modern quilts often use asymmetry, improvisational piecing, minimalism, negative space, a reinterpretation of traditional blocks or the lack of a visible block structure. They are machine or hand quilted in a way that is complementary to the design.

WALL Quilts - Categories may be tweaked to balance numbers of entries.

1610 - Wall Small, Pieced: - Quilts will be under 35" wide. Patterns and kits allowed. **Only** piecing is allowed, no appliqué or embellishments of any kind will be allowed.

1620 – Wall Small, Applied Techniques - Quilts will be under 35" wide. Patterns and kits allowed. All appliqué, painting, embellishments, combination of techniques with piecing, etc. allowed, as well as entirely appliquéd quilts and whole cloth quilts.

1630 - Wall Medium, Pieced: - Quilts will be between 35" and 55" in width. Patterns and kits allowed. **Only** piecing is allowed, no appliqué or embellishments of any kind will be allowed.

1640 – Wall Medium, Applied Techniques - Quilts will be between 35" and 55" in width. Patterns and kits allowed. All appliqué, painting, embellishments, combination of techniques with piecing, etc. allowed, as well as entirely appliquéd quilts and whole cloth quilts.

1650 - Wall Large, Pieced: - Quilts will be over 55" in width. Patterns and kits allowed. **Only** piecing is allowed, no appliqué or embellishments of any kind will be allowed.

1660 - Wall Large, Applied Techniques - Quilts will be over 55" in width. Patterns and kits allowed. All appliqué, painting, embellishments, combination of techniques with piecing, etc. allowed, as well as entirely appliquéd quilts and whole cloth quilts.

1700-Found and Finished: Quilts will include all sizes, all techniques. Quilts must have been started by another quilter (known or unknown) and finished by entrant(s)

1800-Art: Any size. MUST be completely original design. **Absolutely no patterns or kits allowed.** Cannot be inspired by an existing pattern. Categories will be determined by the number of entries.

1900 - Wearables: Garments, Bags, Purses, Accessories Items do not need to be quilted. All techniques, all makers allowed. Pattern designer required on entry form.

2000- Miscellaneous: Any entry that does not fit into any other category and items such as 3-D or household items. Examples: table runners, place mats, and those quilts without batting (only 2 layers) such as crazy quilts and cathedral windows. All techniques, all makers allowed. Do not enter a quilt that fits into the bed or wall quilt categories.

2100-MVQG Quilt Show 2026 Challenge, Emphasis on the Curves: Maximum size is 30 x 30 inches. Traditional, modern, or art techniques can be employed. Show us your curves! Anything from Storm at Sea, Drunkards Path, improv, or something that looks curvy to you.

2300- Junior: Entrant must be under the age of 18 and be a child/grandchild of a member. Each entry will receive a participation ribbon. **(Non-judged category)**

2400- For the Joy of Sharing (Non-judged): For items which simply want to be seen and not judged!