



QUILT²⁰²⁷ CONTEST

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

RULES & REGULATIONS



Entry Deadline / Display Information 1

Adult Classification 3

Youth Classification 5

Contest Information 7

Sleeve and Casing Instructions 10

Entry Submission 11

Entry Return 13

AXS Account 14

For more information or to enter the 2027 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Quilt Contest, scan the QR code:



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ENTRY DEADLINE/DISPLAY INFORMATION

September 7, 2026

- Call for entry opens - **ONLINE ENTRY ONLY** - \$30 entry fee
- The link to the online entry form can be found by scanning the QR code in the Table of Contents.
- Only one entry is allowed per person.

January 8, 2027

- **ENTRY DEADLINE (Includes online entry form, payment, and quilt).**
- Online entry form must be submitted by 4 p.m. on this date.
- Entries must be physically received in the HLSR office by 4 p.m. on this same date. Any entry that does not have a complete online entry form or payment will be disqualified.
- Please note that there is no preview process completed as part of our contest. Once you submit your online entry form and payment, we expect your entry to be mailed or dropped off at the HLSR office.
- After this deadline and prior to being judged, the Quilt Committee previews all quilts against the rules outlined in this handbook. It's important to make sure that all guidelines are followed, as entries are final and changes cannot be made once the entry is received by the HLSR office.
- Entries can be delivered to the HLSR office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Delivery instructions can be found in the 'Entry Submission section' on page 11 of this handbook.
- If shipping your entry, follow the instructions outlined in the 'Entry Submission' section on page 11 of this handbook.

March 2 - 21, 2027

- Quilts will be on display on the first floor of Reliant Center across from the Hall C lobby.
- HLSR reserves the right to exhibit the quilts as space and criteria permit.
- Exhibitors whose quilts are judged will receive two (2) Reliant Park grounds passes for use during the 2027 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

- Tickets will be sent digitally and require an AXS account. If you do not have an
- AXS account, please create one using the email used to register for this quilt contest. Instructions can be found in the 'AXS Account' section on page 14 of this handbook.
- Disqualified entries will not receive grounds passes nor a refund.

April 2027

- Entries will be returned via FedEx or available for pick up in the HLSR office. If you are picking up your quilt entry, you must make arrangements prior to your arrival. Instructions can be found in the 'Entry Return' section on page 13 of this handbook.
- There is an opportunity for some of the award winning quilts from the exhibit to be invited to travel and be displayed at the International Quilt Festival-Houston. Travel invitations will be sent directly from Quilts, Inc. and will be at each quilter's discretion. Traveling quilts will be returned by Quilts, Inc. in November 2027.
- Please note that traveling quilts will not be returned in the quilt bag in which they were submitted. Ribbons and judges' comments will be mailed separately, unless pick up arrangements have been confirmed.



ADULT CLASSIFICATION

There are two (2) divisions in the adult classification, each with five (5) categories. For reference, classification definitions are listed below.

Divisions

1. Machine Quilting
2. Hand Quilting

Division Definitions

1. **Machine Quilting** - the process of sewing a running stitch through all three (3) layers of a quilt - the top, the batting (middle layer), and the backing - using a sewing machine.
2. **Hand Quilting** - the process of sewing a running stitch through all three (3) layers of a quilt - the top, the batting (middle layer), and the backing - entirely by hand.

Categories

1. Applique
2. Piecework
3. Pictorial
4. Modern
5. Mixed Technique

Category Definitions

1. **Applique** - A quilt where applique is featured as the dominant technique, either be terms of the quantity used or the overall visual impact. While pieced blocks may be included, the applique work must clearly take precedence. The quilt must be more than 75% applique.
2. **Piecework** - All traditional pieced quilts for use on a bed, lap, or wall hanging.
3. **Pictorial (Themed Quilt)** - A quilt that depicts a recognizable image, such as objects, still life, wildlife, cityscapes, people and figures.
4. **Modern** - A quilt that exhibits at least some or any of the following elements: bold colors/prints, high/low contracts, graphic areas of color, improvisational piecing, minimalism or maximalism (in color, piecing, etc...).
5. **Mixed Technique** - A quilt that includes any technique or combination of techniques.

Only one (1) entry per person is allowed. If you are a member of an Area Go Texan or Metro Area Go Texan Committee, you may submit one (1) entry in each classification (Adult and Youth).

Judging - Adult Classification

Quilts will be judged in the following areas**:

- **Overall Appearance** - Condition of the quilt, neatness, pleasing feel, appearance, uniqueness and relationship of the border to the quilt.
- **Workmanship** - Accuracy of piecing or applique, quality of stitching, bindings, and corners.
- **Sustainability/Color** - Compatibility of materials to function and to each other, design, and color in relationship to intended use.
- **Originality** - Deviations of familiar patterns as well as total design.
- **Design** - Scale, placement, unity, distinctness, originality, and relationship of quilting and design.

****Any changes of judging criteria are at the discretion of the quilt committee prior to judging day. At least one completed judging sheet will be sent back with each quilt after the Show.**

Awards - Adult Classification

Awards for the adult classification are as follows:

- Best of Show
- Two (2) Best of Division
- Eight (8) Best of Category
- Two (2) Judges' Choice (In recognition of special merit as designated by each judge)
- Committee's Choice (Voted as the favorite by the Quilt Committee members)
- Blue, red, white, and green ribbons (Ribbon distribution will vary at the discretion of the Quilt Committee based on entries received).
- **HLSR has the right to amend the quantity and type or ribbons awarded based on entries received per division.**



YOUTH CLASSIFICATION

There are two (2) divisions in the youth classification. For reference, classification definitions are listed below.

Divisions

1. Machine Quilting
2. Hand Quilting

Division Definitions

1. **Machine Quilting** - the process of sewing a running stitch through all three (3) layers of a quilt - the top, the batting (middle layer), and the backing - using a sewing machine.
2. **Hand Quilting** - the process of sewing a running stitch through all three (3) layers of a quilt - the top, the batting (middle layer), and the backing - entirely by hand.

All workmanship (including quilting and finishing) must be done by an individual or group within the youth age range to qualify for the youth classification. Youth age range is defined as 18 years or age or younger as of December 31, 2026.

Judging - Youth Classification

Quilts will be judged in the following areas**:

- **Overall Appearance** - Condition of the quilt, neatness, pleasing feel, appearance, uniqueness and relationship of the border to the quilt.
- **Workmanship** - Accuracy of piecing or applique, quality of stitching, bindings, and corners.
- **Sustainability/Color** - Compatibility of materials to function and to each other, design, and color in relationship to intended use.
- **Originality** - Deviations of familiar patterns as well as total design.
- **Design** - Scale, placement, unity, distinctness, originality, and relationship of quilting and design.

****Any changes of judging criteria are at the discretion of the quilt committee prior to judging day. At least one completed judging sheet will be sent back with each quilt after the Show.**

Awards - Youth Classification

Awards for the youth classification are as follows:

- Best of Show
- Two (2) Best of Division
- Two (2) Judges' Choice (In recognition of special merit as designated by each judge)
- Committee's Choice (Voted as the favorite by the Quilt Committee members)
- Blue, red, white, and green ribbons (Ribbon distribution will vary at the discretion of the Quilt Committee based on entries received).
- Youth entries may be further categorized at the discretion of HLSR. If further categorization takes place, additional ribbons may be awarded.
- Scholarships will be awarded to the following youth winners**:
 - Best of Show - \$1,000
 - Best of Division Machine Quilting - \$500
 - Best of Division Hand Quilting - \$500
- Winning students will be paid via HLSR company check. All winners must submit their W-9 before their payment is processed. Checks will be sent to winners in May 2027.
- Winners are only eligible for one (1) scholarship.

****Any additional awards will be at the discretion of HLSR.**



CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry is open to quilters residing in the following Texas counties:

Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bosque, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Colorado, Comanche, Coryell, DeWitt, Falls, Fayette, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Grimes, Hamilton, Harding, Harris, Harrison, Henderson, Hill, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Live Oak, Madison, Matagorda, McLennan, Milam, Mills, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Panola, Polk, Refugio, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Shelby, Smith, Trinity, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Williamson.

Contest Format

Quilts will be submitted for judging in a private session by qualified judges. The judge's comment sheet(s) and award ribbons(s) will be mailed back with the quilt or available during quilt pick up.

Contest Rules

1. Only one (1) entry is allowed per person. Members of an Area Go Texan committee may submit one (1) entry in each classification - Adult and Youth.
2. Call for entry opens on September 7, 2026. Only online entries will be accepted. The link to the online entry form can be found at rodeohouston.com or by scanning the QR code in the Table of Contents.
3. Each entry requires three (3) photos (full front view, detail/close up of front and back view), an entry fee of \$30, and signed Release of Liability and Indemnity form.
4. Quilts that have been on prior exhibit at HLSR are not eligible to return.
5. Quilts must consist of three (3) layers: backing, batting, and top. (Exclusions include yoyo quilts, cathedral window style quilts, and crazy quilts).
6. Quilts must be applique, pieced, or any combination of quilting techniques. Quilting and piecing of the quilt may be done by machine or by hand.

7. The maximum size is 108" x 108". Smaller quilts will be accepted. When measuring quilts, a tape measure should be used. **Please note that the maximum size allowable will be reduced to 88" x 88" for the 2028 Quilt Contest.**
8. **YOUTH CLASSIFICATION ONLY** - All workmanship, including quilting and finishing must be done by an individual or group within the youth age range to qualify for the youth classification. Youth age range is defined as 18 years of age or younger as of December 31, 2026. If any part of the quilt was worked on by an individual older than 18 years of age, the quilt will be judged in the adult classification.
9. No pre-printed quilt cloth (cheater cloth), pre-quilted fabric, or pre-printed whole cloth quilt tops may be used.
10. Manufactured quilts will not be accepted.
11. Quilts made from mass produced kits will not be accepted. This includes block of the month quilts made from fabrics preselected for the quiltmaker. Block of the month patterns will be allowed ONLY if the quiltmaker has selected their own fabric.
12. Trademarked logos, slogans, and licensed characters are not permitted in part or in whole and will be disqualified. This also applies to the title of the artwork. Please note that prohibited logos include: HLSR, professional teams, college, school, and district logos.
13. Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring that their entry complies with all applicable copyright laws.
14. Entries made using a published design, pattern, or digital embroidery must acknowledge book, pattern, and/or designer. Credit must be given to the author, teacher, artist, etc... who inspired the work if applicable.
15. Quilts may be made by either an individual or by a group of quilters, but acknowledgement must be given to anyone participating in the creation of the quilt, and all participants must reside within an eligible Texas county. See list above.
16. Quilts that require special handling will not be accepted. Quilts must be able to be stacked, boxed, and folded with other pieces without damage to itself or other quilts.
17. Quilts must arrive clean and in good condition. Quilts found to be soiled, ripped, torn, stained, or found to have an unpleasant odor will be disqualified.

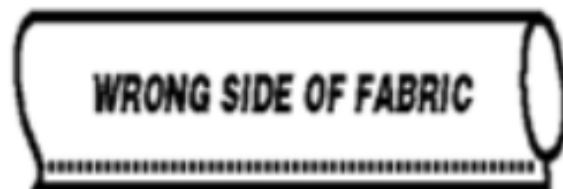
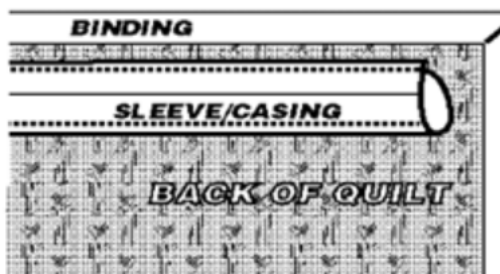
18. Quilts must be delivered enclosed in an appropriately sized bag with a working zipper and without wire support. DO NOT USE A PILLOWCASE OR CLOTH BAG. To protect the quilt, the bag must be in good working condition. Quilts not submitted in such a bag will be subject to a \$5 fee for the provision of this bag. The \$5 fee can be paid as part of your entry fee. Please note that traveling quilts will not be returned in the quilt bag in which they were submitted.
19. Each quilt entry must have a four (4) inch finished double casing sewn across the full width of the back of the top edge for hanging on a rod display. This is called a sleeve. The sleeve needs to be stitched on the top and bottom. For more information, please see the sleeve/casing instructions below.
20. A label must be sewn on the lower left-hand corner on the back of the quilt. The label must be embroidered, typed, or written with a fabric pen on muslin. DO NOT use a ballpoint pen. Label must include the name of the quilt, quiltmaker(s) name(s), quilt owner's name, and contact information. **Prior to submission, this label should be covered by a 3" x 5" index card using safety pins to attach it temporarily to preserve anonymity during the judging process.**
21. Judges' decisions are final. HLSR reserves the right to decline an entry.
22. Entries that are returned as disqualified will receive an explanation (via email message to the email address used to enter the contest) but will not receive a refund. Quilts will be mailed back after the Show, unless pick up arrangements have been made.
23. Quilts must have been constructed during the past two years (2025 or 2026).

SLEEVE AND 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 efficient method because a rod can be inserted and suspended between standards.

To make a sleeve or casing:

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





ENTRY SUBMISSION

Exhibitors are responsible for shipping or dropping off their entry to HLSR:

- Shipped entries should be addressed as follows:

Ashly Thornton
HLSR Quilt Contest
3 Reliant Park
Houston, TX 77054

- Entries can be dropped off at the HLSR offices Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. excluding holidays and Houston Texans home games.
- HLSR will be closed on the following dates:
 - September 7, 2026
 - November 26 & 27, 2026
 - December 23, 24, & 25, 2026
 - December 31, 2026
 - January 1, 2027
- The HLSR offices are located on the 2nd floor of Reliant Center.
- Please enter Reliant Park grounds via Gate 10 (Kirby and McNee). Let the guard know you are dropping off your entry so you aren't charged for parking.
 - The GPS address for Gate 10:
8600 Kirby Dr.
Houston, TX 77054





ENTRY RETURN

HLSR will be responsible for return shipping as follows:

- Quilts will be returned via FedEx in April 2027, insuring it for \$500 (delivery only) with a signature required upon delivery.
- PO Boxes are not permitted.
- If delivery attempts fail and the quilt is returned to HLSR, arrangements must be made to pick up your quilt. HLSR will assume no liability for quilt entries.
- HLSR will insure each accepted entry against damage from the time we receive the entry until it is in the hands of the return courier, up to the value amount on the entry form or a maximum of \$500, whichever value is lowest. It is highly recommended that entries valued over \$500 be appraised and the exhibitor obtain additional insurance to cover any damage to the entry while in transit to HLSR.
- Exhibitors who prefer to pick up their entry from the HLSR office must make an appointment prior to arrival. Please fill out the online form via the QR code below and an HLSR staff member will reach out to confirm the date and time.

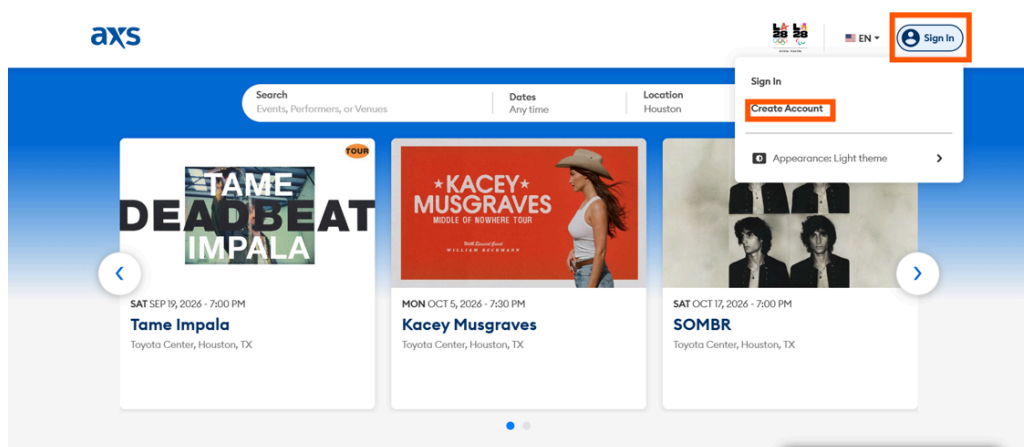


AXS ACCOUNT SET UP

If you do not have an AXS account, please create one using the email address you used when entering the contest.

Step 1: Go to AXS.com via your preferred web browser.

Step 2: Click the Sign In button in the top right corner and select Create Account.



Step 3: Create an account using the email address that you used when entering the quilt contest.

A screenshot of the AXS 'Sign in or create account' form. The form is set against a dark blue background with the AXS logo at the top. The text 'Sign in or create account' is prominently displayed. Below this, a message states: 'If you don't have an account, we'll create one for you.' There is a text input field labeled 'Email address' and a 'Continue' button. At the bottom of the form, there are links for 'Terms of Use' and 'Privacy Policy'.

Step 4: Fill out the form with your name, password, and postal code and click Create account.



[< Back](#)
Create account

Email address

First name

Last name

Create password


Password must include 1 uppercase letter, 1 lowercase letter, 1 number and a minimum of 8 characters.

Country of residence

 United States 

Postal code

AXS collects and uses information about you (including your name, email address, and usage information) in accordance with it's [Privacy Policy](#)

By clicking "Create Account" I am acknowledging that I have read AXS's [Terms of Use](#)

Create account