



Local County Fairs & Quilts

Timeless Stitches — Quilt Capital of Kansas

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Summer is in full swing. We have experienced the longest day of the year, Independence Day with all its celebration and fireworks is behind us, most of the crops are planted, wheat has been harvested, and some of the hay and straw is baled. A traditional celebration of summer is the County Fair. There is the celebration of this year's livestock, crops, garden produce, baking, flower arranging, canning, sewing, and QUILTS!

Needle women from across the country take their quilts to their local county fairs to display them and to compete for ribbons in various categories. The Douglas County Fair has several quilt categories divided by size—small wall hangings and table runners, large wall hangings, small bed (crib) quilts and throws, and large bed quilts. Within these four categories the quilts are divided again, mostly by technique.

These classes are subdivided for hand-quilted quilts and machine-quilted quilts.---- Other technique classes are pieced quilts, hand-appliqued quilts, machine-appliqued quilts, embroidered quilts, combined techniques that includes quilts made with at least five different techniques, and even a class for quilts that the top is made by one person and quilted by another person. For those interested in designing their own patterns, in each size category there is an original design category.



There are also several special classes. The beginning quilters class offers a place for quilters with two years or less experience quilting to compete against each other, rather than having to compete with quilters who have been making quilts for many years. Additional classes are any quilt made by a quilter at least 70 years of age, t-shirt quilts (a majority of the blocks are made from t-shirts), quilts made by more than one person (quilts made by a quilt guild or church group fit in this class), any tied item, and any other patchwork or quilted item. There are also classes for young quilters (age 18 and under)—any quilted item, hand-quilted quilt, machine-quilted quilt. Last, but not least, is a class for quilted clothing and accessories, which could include jackets, bags, purses, pillows, etc.

Entries will be accepted at the Douglas County Fairgrounds (2110 Harper Street, Lawrence, KS) on Monday, July 25, 1pm until 7pm in Building 21. Judging will take place the following morning. The building will open for public viewing of the quilts and other exhibits beginning at 3pm Tuesday and remain open daily from 10am to 9pm Wednesday through Saturday. Entries are to be claimed by exhibitors Sunday morning between 8am and 10am at the close of the fair.

Exhibiting a quilt can be a learning experience. The judge records constructive comments on the comment sheet, so if you want to find ways to improve your quilting, this may be a good opportunity. It is important to

remember that the comments of the judge are the opinion of one person and a different judge may see the entry differently. Consider the comments carefully and, most importantly, evaluate whether you agree with them enough to make changes in your quilting experiences. That choice is always up to you.

Several of the exhibitors bring quilts simply to show their work. They enjoy showing their quilts and seeing what others have made in the past year. Entries are limited to quilts made in the past five years. If a quilt wins a prize, it may not be exhibited again at this fair. So, consider bringing your quilts to show—we would love to see them! And best of all, there are no entry fees! This is a free experience.

For more information, download the 2022 Fair Book at <https://dgcountyfair.com/fair-info/>.