

2026 Florida State Fair Creative Living Competitions

Quilting

Competition Handbook

ADULT

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US!



BY PHONE AT
(813)621-7821

BY EMAIL AT
CREATIVELIVING@FLORIDASTATEFAIR.COM

IMPORTANT DATES

Entry Deadline: Friday, December 5, 2025

Late Entry Deadline: Friday, December 12, 2025

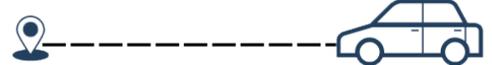
Item Delivery: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Friday, January 9, 2026 - 11:00am-6:00pm
Saturday, January 10, 2026 - 10:00am-4:00pm

Item Pickup: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Thursday, February 19, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Friday, February 20, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm
Saturday, February 21, 2026 - 10:00am-2:00pm

ENTRY DELIVERY & PICK-UP

Enter off of Orient Road through the Service Entrance on the west side of the fairgrounds.

A map with directions to the Florida Center is available on the Creative Living Website



ENTRY FEES

Adult Divisions (Ages 18+): \$5 Per Entry

Late Entry: \$10 Per Entry

ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

GUIDELINES

- **Because of the limitations for display space only eight (8) items per person will be accepted for judging, however, there is no limit to the number of pieces per class.**
- Exhibited work must be completed within the last five (5) years.
- Any Quilts larger than 40" in length must have Quilt Hanging Sleeves. *See instructions online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjPqhTAH-9A>*
- Name of Quilter(s) must be covered for judging purposes.
- Quilts must be clean, pressed, and free from spots and stains.
- **A Quilt Information Form must accompany your quilt when you deliver the quilt to the Florida State Fair.**
- Each adult exhibitor will receive one (1) admission ticket to the Fair.
- Entries previously exhibited in the Florida State Fair may not be submitted for competition.
- Entries must have been prepared by the exhibitor in whose name they are entered.
- Entries completed by two or more individuals are permitted but will be counted as one exhibitor
- All entries will be displayed at the Fair whether they receive an award or not. In keeping with the Florida State Fair's family orientation, items of an offensive, controversial, or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.
- **Early Pickup is available on Tuesday, February 17th, 2025. Exhibitors must contact the office in Advance.**
- Entries must remain on display all 12 days of the Florida State Fair.

JUDGING & AWARDS

- The Fair selects judges who are experienced and knowledgeable in the categories they are assigned. Judges are expected to be fair and unbiased. They may reassign an entry to a different division or class if they feel it's a better fit.
- All entries will be judged using a scorecard to help ensure fairness and consistency. Judges' decisions are final.
- If the judge feels that an entry does not meet the standards for an award, no ribbon or prize will be given, even if it is the only entry in the class.
- Winners and final displays will be announced during the Fair.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Construction (50%)	Presentation Quality (10%)	General Appearance (15%)	Degree of Difficulty (25%)
Workmanship, Uniformity, Technique & Finishing	Suitability of fabric to pattern, Appropriate in quality, size, color, finish, and design	Design, Originality, Color Combinations, Texture Combinations, Cleanliness	

QUILTS & QUILTED ITEMS DEFINITIONS

Size of Quilts – Finished Quilt

Small: a quilt less than 40" on any one side

Medium: a quilt that is 40"– 80" on any one side

Large: a quilt greater than 80" on any one side

Single Person is when your quilt is pieced, sewn, and quilted by one person.

Appliqued: a quilt that at least 50% of the quilt is appliqued.

Duet Quilt: a quilt that is constructed by one person and quilted or long armed by another person.

Group Constructed Quilt: any quilt top constructed by more than one person (any size made in any technique).

Art Quilt is a type of quilt that uses embellishments of any kind to enhance the quilt; this could include felting, painting, stenciling, thread art, etc.; at least 50% of the quilt is quilted.

Embroidered: uses hand or machine embroidery stitches to decorate pieces; at least 50% of the quilt is embroidered.

Quilted Household Items could include table runners, Christmas tree skirts place mats, pillows, etc.

QUILTS & QUILTED ITEMS DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Quilting: Hand Quilted - Adult Division 95.101

Single Person Quilt

Class 1 Single Person - Quilt, Pieced (Small)

Class 2 Single Person - Quilt, Pieced (Medium)

Class 3 Single Person - Quilt, Pieced (Large)

Class 4 Single Person - Quilt, Appliqued (Small)

Class 5 Single Person - Quilt, Appliqued (Medium)

Class 6 Single Person - Quilt, Appliqued (Large)

Duet Quilts

Class 7 Duet - Quilt, Pieced (Small)

Class 8 Duet - Quilt, Pieced (Medium)

Class 9 Duet - Quilt, Pieced (Large)

Class 10 Duet - Quilt, Appliqued (Small)

Class 11 Duet - Quilt, Appliqued (Medium)

Class 12 Duet - Quilt, Appliqued (Large)

Other Quilts & Styles

Class 13 Art Quilts (any size)

Class 14 Quilt, Kit used (any size)

Class 15 Novice Quilter – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind) (any size)

Class 16 Original Design Quilt (any size)

Class 17 Quilt, Embroidered (any size)

Class 18 Quilt, Whole Cloth (any size)

Class 19 T-shirt Quilt (any size)

Class 20 Group Constructed Quilt (any style or size)

Class 21 Quilt, Other Not Listed (Single or Duo)

Quilted Items

Class 22 Quilted Wall Hanging, Unframed

Class 23 Quilted Household Item

Class 24 Quilted Picture

Class 25 Quilted Garment & Accessory

QUILTS & QUILTED ITEMS DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Quilting: Machine Quilted - Adult Division 95.102

Single Person Quilt

- Class 1 Single Person - Quilt, Pieced (Small)
- Class 2 Single Person - Quilt, Pieced (Medium)
- Class 3 Single Person - Quilt, Pieced (Large)
- Class 4 Single Person - Quilt, Appliqued (Small)
- Class 5 Single Person - Quilt, Appliqued (Medium)
- Class 6 Single Person - Quilt, Appliqued (Large)

Duet Quilts

- Class 7 Duet - Quilt, Pieced (Small)
- Class 8 Duet - Quilt, Pieced (Medium)
- Class 9 Duet - Quilt, Pieced (Large)
- Class 10 Duet - Quilt, Appliqued (Small)
- Class 11 Duet - Quilt, Appliqued (Medium)
- Class 12 Duet - Quilt, Appliqued (Large)

Other Quilts & Styles

- Class 13 Art Quilts (any size)
- Class 14 Quilt, Kit used (any size)
- Class 15 Novice Quilter – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind) (any size)
- Class 16 Original Design Quilt (any size)
- Class 17 Quilt, Embroidered (any size)
- Class 18 Quilt, Whole Cloth (any size)
- Class 19 T-shirt Quilt (any size)
- Class 20 Group Constructed Quilt (any style or size)
- Class 21 Quilt, Other Not Listed (Single or Duo)

Quilted Items

- Class 22 Quilted Wall Hanging, Unframed
- Class 23 Quilted Household Item
- Class 24 Quilted Picture
- Class 25 Quilted Garment & Accessory

GENERAL RULES

DISCLAIMER

All entries are submitted at the exhibitor's own risk. The Florida State Fair is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of exhibits even if caused by staff, volunteers, contractors, or visitors. If you want insurance for your entry, you must arrange it through your personal insurance provider before the Fair. Reasonable care will be taken to protect exhibits. No unauthorized people are allowed in the building after closing hours.

DIVISION OR CLASS CANCELLATION

The Florida State Fair may cancel any division or class if there are not enough entries to ensure fair competition. Any affected entries will be returned.

ENTRY ERRORS

Exhibitors are responsible for making sure their entries are correct. This includes online forms and summary sheets. The Fair is not responsible for correcting mistakes, and no awards will be given for entries disqualified due to exhibitor error. If an award is later found to be ineligible, it will be withheld or recovered. You may appeal a disqualification in writing within 90 days of being notified. Include your name, address, full entry details, and your reason for requesting a review.

PREMIUM PAYMENTS

Prizes will be awarded based on the Judging Criteria Record Sheets. **Prize checks are void 6 months after the date on the check. No replacement checks will be issued after that, so please cash them promptly.**

SUBSTITUTIONS

If needed, substitutions must be made within the same department as the original entry. They must be completed by the last day of the entry delivery period. You may not transfer your entry to another person.

PREVIOUSLY ENTERED ITEMS

Entries that have been shown at past Florida State Fairs are not allowed, except for entries in Horticulture and Aquarium Beautiful.

VERIFICATION OF ENTRY

To confirm that your mailed entry form and fees were received, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission. Online entries will receive a confirmation code after submitting.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXHIBITS

The Fair is not responsible for exhibits left behind after the scheduled pick-up time. **Anything left after that time will be treated as abandoned and discarded by April 1st of the same year.**

ENTRY REMOVAL

Once accepted, entries cannot be removed until the official release date listed in the Competition Handbook. Early removal is only allowed in cases like serious illness, emergencies, or at the Fair's discretion.

RETURNED OR BOUNCED CHECKS

A \$25 fee applies to any returned checks. This must be paid with cash, a certified check, or a money order.

MAILING PAPER ENTRY FORMS

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 5, 2025. Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification. Late entries must be postmarked before December 12, 2025. If you're submitting a late entry form, you must include the extra \$5 per entry fee. **Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority**

Mail Entry Form to:

Creative Living Competitions – Quilting
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680

SHIPPING ENTRIES

Shipped entries must arrive no later than January 6, 2026. **Packages MUST include Shipping form and prepaid shipping label.** Entries will be shipped back to the exhibitors after the fair in the same container. Return shipping costs are the responsibility of the entrant.

Ship Entry Form to:

Florida State Fair Authority
Creative Living Competitions - Quilting
4800 US HWY 301 North
Tampa, FL 33680

RETRIEVING ENTRIES

All entries not claimed by April 1st of the same year will be recycled, disposed or donated through our program department. Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for a special pick-up appointment by emailing CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com.

EXHIBIT DESIGN & SET UP

The Florida State Fair controls how exhibits are displayed. If your entry is meant to be hung but isn't ready to hang, the Fair will display it as they see fit. No changes can be made once items are on display. Exhibitors cannot handle their entries after drop-off. Fair staff will handle final placement and assembly, using any instructions you provide. If your item needs assembly or disassembly, include clear instructions and diagrams. The Fair may use pins or other tools to secure your exhibit for display. Online entries will receive a confirmation code after submitting.

AWARD PREMIUMS

First Place - State Fair Ribbon **\$25**

Second Place - State Fair Ribbon **\$20**

Third Place - State Fair Ribbon **\$15**

Best of Show - State Fair Ribbon **\$50** Best of Show Awards will be chosen from the first place winners in each Quilting Adult Division.

Director's Choice Award - State Fair Ribbon **\$35**

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be awarded at the discretion of the judge(s).

Quilt Information Form

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND BRING IT WITH EACH ENTRY.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Exhibitor # _____

Entry # _____

Division _____

Class _____

Single Person Quilted is when your quilt is pieced, sewn, and quilted by one person.

Duet Quilted is a quilt that is constructed by one person and quilted or longarmed by another person.

Group Constructed Quilt is any quilt top constructed by more than one person (any size made in any technique).

Name of Exhibitor (First, Last)

Name of Longarmer (First, Last) Same as above

Group Constructed Quilt

If this is a **Group Constructed Quilt**, please provide a list of other Quilter's names. You can use another sheet of paper if needed. We can only enter one exhibitor's name in our database. If you enter online, you can only enter one name. We can fix the label for display.

Other Stitchers (First, Last)

Other Stitchers (First, Last)

Other Stitchers (First, Last)

Name of Block
or Pattern

Date Quilt was made: _____ Finished Quilt Measurements L _____ W _____

Additional Information:

In the space below please provide any unusual techniques used or additional information that the judge(s) may find helpful when judging your quilt. **For example:** All the fabric was hand-dyed.

Signature of exhibitor

Date

2026 Florida State Fair

Quilting Competition Entry Form

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 5, 2025.

Late Entry Period: December 6 – 12, 2025 (Double Entry Fees)

Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification

Please print legibly

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Exhibitor #	_____
Late Entry	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Total Fee	_____
Paid	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> MO <input type="checkbox"/> Check
Check No.	_____

Exhibitors Name (First, Last)			
Mailing Address		County	
City	State	Zip Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you are a new exhibitor
Phone ()	Email		

Entry Fee: Adult Division \$5 per entry | Late entry \$10 per entry

Exhibitors may enter up to eight (8) entries for judging, however, there is no limit to the number of pieces per class.

Late Entry
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

#	DIVISION #	CLASS #	Entered Item Description	FEE
1			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DUET <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
2			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DUET <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
3			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DUET <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
4			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DUET <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
5			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DUET <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
6			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DUET <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
7			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DUET <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
8			<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DUET <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP	
Total Amount Due				\$

I hereby certify that I have read the Florida State Fair General Rules for the Competitive Exhibits Program and the above item(s) is/are entered for exhibition strictly in accordance with these rules, by which I agree to be governed. I also agree that the Florida State Fair may use my name, likeness, or photograph (including, but not limited to photographs of my entry), in any manner relating to my participation in the Competitive Exhibits Program, free of charge and without further notice or consultation.

I understand that the 2026 Creative Living Competitions & Exhibits are held in conjunction with the 2026 Florida State Fair and agree that the Florida State Fair is not liable or responsible for any delay, change of dates or cancellation of the 2026 Florida State Fair due the following unforeseeable circumstances: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake; or (c) other potential disaster(s) or catastrophe(s), such as epidemics, pandemics, or explosion.

Signature of exhibitor	Date
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Mail Entry Form to:
 Creative Living Competition – Quilting
 Florida State Fair
 P.O. Box 11766
 Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority