



44th Annual Rio Grande Valley Quilt Show
“Looking to the Stars”
February 13-14, 2026
South Padre Island Convention Centre

Categories

These descriptions may be used to assist quilters in selecting categories to register their entries. Some quilts may fit in several different categories. Please choose the category that best suits you. Quilters, please, be sure to fill out the quilt description areas on the description sheet. The maximum perimeter is 480 inches. Quilts with a total perimeter over 480” will NOT be accepted for this show.

WALLHANGINGS: These quilts will be placed in one of the following subcategories based on their perimeter: This category includes ANY entry that is pieced, embroidered, appliqued, whole cloth, hand and/or machine quilted specifically made to be hung on the wall.

SMALL - Perimeter is less than 144 inches.

LARGE - Perimeter is greater than 145 inches and less than the maximum perimeter.

ART QUILTS: These must be an original design by the quilt maker. These may utilize multiple techniques, include embellishments, thread painting, beading, painting on fabric, photography on fabric, etc. Quilt must be less than the maximum perimeter.

MODERN QUILTS: These quilts generally have the following characteristics: Simplified, abstract design; Use of solid fabrics, bold colors, large prints; Negative space is very important in the overall composition; Improvisational piecing may be employed.; Upcycled/recycled fabrics are often used; Quilting is restrained, often linear. Quilt must be less than the maximum perimeter.

BED QUILTS: These may include baby, crib, lap, throw, twin, full, queen and king quilts, and will be placed in one of the following subcategories based on their perimeter:

SMALL - Perimeter is less than 250 inches.

MEDIUM - Perimeter is greater than 250 inches and less than or equal to 325 inches.

LARGE - Perimeter is greater than 325 inches and less than the maximum perimeter.

HAND WORK: HAND quilted, embroidered, applique, etc. Over 50% must be hand work. Quilt must be less than the maximum perimeter.

MACHINE WORK: Artistry of machine quilting, machine embroidery, or machine applique. Over 50% must be machine work. Quilt must be less than the maximum perimeter.

RECYCLED/UPCYCLED: Fabrics that started as something else like clothing, sheets, curtains, thrift store finds, old quilts, orphan blocks.

Wearable: Must be at least 50% recycled/upcycled materials and contain at least 50% fabric.

Home Décor: Must be at least 50% recycled/upcycled materials and contain at least 50% fabric.

Quilts: Any size quilt. Must be 3 layers and 80% fabric.

WEARABLE: Clothing, jackets, christening gowns, skirts, vests, and accessories such as purses, bags, totes, shoes, slippers and hats.

HOME DECOR: Placemats, table runners, potholders, dolls, fiber bowls, and children's toys such as play mats and bumper pads.

NOVICE: The first time an entrant has had a quilt in ANY show. Any quilting form is acceptable but must have 3 layers and be quilted, not tied. Quilt must be less than the maximum perimeter.

GROUP QUILT: Quilt of any size were the quilt top was made by more than one person.

YOUTH: A youth quilter must be 18 years of age or younger and hadn't yet graduated from high school when the item was made. Their entry may match any of the above categories. A youth quilter may make a Quilt or Theme Challenge quilt, but it must be entered in that category.

2026 THEME CHALLENGE (Previously known as CHALLENGE): ***“My Favorite Martian”*** The challenge is to create a fiber art piece that showcases your version of ***“My Favorite Martian”***. This must be an original piece and should not include any breakable embellishments. This piece must include at least one Star Quilt Block. The size is limited to a maximum of 72” perimeter. If it's a circle or odd shape the diameter should not exceed 18”.

2026 QUILT CHALLENGE (Previously known as Chairs Choice): The Quilt Challenge will be a star themed child's quilt. These quilts should have a perimeter less than 250”. After the Quilt Show, these quilts will be donated to local Children's Hospitals.