

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Quilt and Craft Tips for Festivals

Quilt and craft participants often ask for suggestions to maximize the amount that their donation brings to benefit the kids. The judges typically look for the same things as buyers. The following are some tips to help you as you create your labor of love.

QUILTS

Judging Categories:

Hand Quilted	Machine Quilted
Appliquéd	Appliquéd
Embroidered	Embroidered
Pieced	Machine Embroidered
Preprinted	Pieced
Whole Cloth	Preprinted
Baby Quilts	Whole Cloth
Baby Embroidered	Baby Quilts
Baby Preprinted	Baby Embroidered
	Baby Preprinted

1. **Color Selection** – Color choice is a key factor that affects the value of any creation. Colors that were popular in earlier decades typically don't sell as well. The most popular colors are the ones that you see frequently in retail stores. All of the fabrics should coordinate, even the fabric used for the back.
2. **Fabric Selection** – Quilts tend to sell better when the fabrics used are coordinated. Multiple fabrics often look good together when they complimentary. The type of fabric also affects the overall beauty of a piece. For example cotton or polyester fabric will be more appealing than heavy knits. Fabric should be prewashed and similar in weight and texture.
3. **Size** – Bigger is better when it comes to quilts. Queen and King sizes quilts bring the most money. We use the following chart to determine the size of the quilt, using the width first.

	Width	Length
Twin	64"-72"	86"-90"
Full	70"-88"	88"-100"
Queen	88"-99"	94"-108"
King	99"-108"	94"108"

4. **Pattern** – Quilts with painted or hand drawn pictures or messages will not bring a high price at auction. In contrast, whole cloth quilts in white or cream in large sizes are very popular and sell extremely well.

5. **Edging** – Finishing off the edges in an attractive way can make a difference to both judges and buyers. Binding should be firm and filled with all three layers of material with no pulls or ripples. Corners, points and curves should be precisely done with no raw seams visible.
6. **Pencil Marks and soiled area** – Quilts with visible marks do not sell well.
7. **Antique Quilts** – Aged or antique quilts seldom bring as high a selling price as the donor would hope, nor are they included in the judging.
8. **Appliqué Tips** – There should be no raw edges showing. If lighter shades of fabric are appliquéd on darker shades, the lighter one should be lined. The appliquéd thread should match the pieces of the appliquéd.
9. **Workmanship:**
 - Stitches should be even, small running stitches and go through all three layers
 - Joining seems should be neat, straight and flat
 - No knots or backstitches should be visible
 - Patchwork pieces should be cut with the grain
 - Patchwork corners should meet evenly
 - Patchwork pieces should be trimmed evenly and pressed toward the dark side of the seem
 - Blocks should be uniform in size
 - Finished article should be neat and clean and squared when it lies flat

CRAFTS

Judging Categories:

Afghans

Crochet

Framed Needlework

Paintings

Wall Hangings

Baby Afghans

Decorative Wood Crafts

Handcrafted Wood Furniture

Unusual / Outstanding

Tips:

1. Like with quilts, color and fabric choices are important to buyers and judges.
2. Stained woodcrafts sell better than natural wood items.
3. Framed artwork or needlework sells better than unframed.
4. Embroidered kitchen towels and pillowcases sell very well in sets.