

HOW RIBBONS ARE DISTRIBUTED AT THE QUILT SHOW

Professionally Judged Quilts

Having your quilt judged may be a scary thing, but it is a great way to get constructive comments from a professional. It can take your skill level to new heights!

Merrimack Valley Quilters Guild hires a professional judge to judge quilts for those who would like that feedback. Only judged quilts are eligible for a ribbon in certain categories. It is the only time during the process that a professional, who is not affiliated with the guild, sees this group of quilts to be judged. The fee for professional judging is \$6 per quilt.

Categories such as **Small/Wall Quilts**, **Medium Quilts**, **Large Quilts**, and **Art Quilts** are eligible for a first, second, and third place ribbon. Award checks are distributed at the October guild meeting for first place finishers.

Another area where ribbons are awarded is **Special Awards**. Some Special Awards may include **Best Long Arm Quilting**, **Best Domestic Quilting**, **Best Binding**, **Best Use of Embroidery or Embellishments**, **Best Appliqué**, **Best First Time Entry into MVQ Show Judging**, and **Best Piecing**. Award checks are distributed at the October guild meeting for these categories as well.

Mystery Quilts will be displayed at the June Guild meeting's **Show and Tell** segment. And then, depending on how many Mystery Quilts are submitted for entry and are professionally judged, a Mystery Quilt entry could earn a first, second, or third place ribbon. You may submit it for judging for \$6. Check "Yes" on the entry form under **Judging** if you choose this option. Mystery Quilts will be hung together for best impact at the show. An award check would be handed out at the October guild meeting for a first place finisher.

Some special ribbons that are awarded during judging are **Best in Show** and **Judge's Choice**. These quilts will hang in a place of honor at the show's entrance. An award check is handed out at the October guild meeting for these categories.

The National Association of Certified Quilt Judges Award or **NACQJ Award of Merit Ribbon** is given by a certified judge. NACQJ judges have the option of awarding this special ribbon to a deserving quilt she/he might judge. At the judge's discretion, it will be awarded to one quilt achieving recognized standards of quilting excellence. No cash award is associated with this ribbon.

Non-Judged Quilts

A **Viewer's Choice** ribbon is awarded for the quilt that receives the most votes from attendees of the show. An award check is handed out at the October guild meeting for this category.

Another way to be awarded a ribbon is having a vendor, who is vending at the show, choose your quilt with her/his **Vendor's Choice** ribbon. Each vendor has one ribbon to award to the lucky quilter of her/his choice. There is no award money associated with the vendor ribbons.

Each chair of the quilt show will be awarding a ribbon at the show. There is no award money associated with the **Quilt Show Chair** and **Quilt Show Vice Chair's Choice** ribbons.

The **Challenge Quilts: The Time of the Season**: This year, challenge quilts will be judged free of charge at the show by an individual who is a professional artist. With sufficient entries, first, second, and third place ribbons will be awarded in the *Challenge* category. These quilts will hang together at the show for best impact. There would be a first place cash award for Challenge quilt.

As always, you may have your Challenge Quilt professionally judged with comments aside from the group judging for the standard \$6 by checking "Yes" on the entry form. Those judged by the professional judge would be moved to the Art Category at the time of judging but will hang with the Challenge group at the show. An award check would be handed out at the October guild meeting for a first place finisher in the Art Quilt Category.