



# Alabama Quilters

A creative arts project



## Competitive Events Day: Bright Youth-Bright Futures

If you and your friends would like, you might start a 4-H Interest Club that focuses on your topic. For more information, see [Starting a 4-H Club](http://www.Alabama4H.com) ([www.Alabama4H.com](http://www.Alabama4H.com)).

**Alabama Quilters** is a 4-H Event. Your local Extension Office has information on local and regional/area events, as well as other 4-H activities.

### Levels of Competition:

Please see the Alabama [4-H Competitive Events Webpage](#) to review the General Contest Policy and the Age & Eligibility Chart.

### The basics are pretty simple:

- Compete by yourself or on a two-person team. Youth on teams should be the same 4-H age level (e.g., Senior Level II).
- You can't use a kit or fabric packet.
- Quilts can be large or small.
- Quilts can be any shape.
- Quilts can be wearable (like a vest or skirt), wall quilts, placemats, pillows, baby quilts or any other form.
- Construction and quilting may be done by hand or machine. Tied quilts are acceptable. Decoration may be sewn. Seniors may not use glue except in minor ornamentation.
- Adults can show you how, but shouldn't do the work for you – that wouldn't be fair!
- Team and individual quilts are judged together.
- Complete the Community Service Report or prepare a report on community service as it relates to your quilting project.

Quilting is a great traditional art form, but it's also very current and popular. Alabama's famous Gee's Bend Quilters show their work around the world and sell their quilts to help the community.

The Senior Quilting Project is different from other Alabama 4-H projects. The emphasis should not be on competing to make a great quilt for your own recognition. The emphasis is on learning a new art, working with kids and adults, and committing to serve others.

### The Quilting Project lets you:

- Work closely with others in your community.
- Show off your creativity.
- Use your skill in sewing, crafting and design.
- Plan, organize and carry through on a challenging project.

### What You Will Learn:

- The Quilting Project will help you learn the basics of good design.
- The Quilting Project will help you learn to recognize and practice good sewing and other artistic techniques.
- The Quilting Project will help you learn to explore your own personal design preferences, and work with others in making decisions.
- The Quilting Project will help you learn and practice a timeless and very practical craft – and create something you can pass down to future generations.

### Who Can Participate:

Any Alabama young person may participate in any 4-H competitive event. However, you must be a member of an Alabama 4-H Club. It's easy and quick to join – just call or e-mail your county Alabama Cooperative Extension System Office for information.



### Please Note:

The Junior Event has different rules on size and community service.

### The Service Component:

Seniors must include some aspect of Service. By **service**, we simply mean “doing good for others.” Use your imagination on how you can tie **quilting** and **service** together.

**An Idea:** All of your involvement in quilting does not have to focus on just one quilt. You can consider helping organize a show of “Inter-Generational Quilts.” You can work with your 4-H volunteers and staff to have a workshop where older people in the community teach about quilting. Or you can work with younger members to teach them simple quilting techniques. Or make baby quilts for newborns.

Such projects and activities can be reported as your **Service Component**.

You will need to complete a **4-H Community Service Report**.

### Disqualification in Alabama Quilters:

- Using a kit or fabric packet
- Senior Level entries using glue to put quilt together.
- Senior Level entries not completing Community Service Report and submitting in a timely manner.

### The Day of the Big Event:

Each county or region will schedule its own **Alabama Quilters** competition. It may be part of a County Round-Up or Regional/Area Congress. Some places may have the event as part of an arts festival or community fair. Many communities will have workshops that help you build your skills and meet other quilters.

On the day of the event, allow yourself plenty of time to set up.

Be ready to make a brief presentation about your quilting project. Take about three minutes (not too long and not too short) to talk about your quilt and about your community project. You decide how you want to do the presentation. On a team, will all the members talk or do you just want one spokesman?

Your judges will have some questions for you. Be ready to **informally** answer questions from the judges. These questions might be things like:

- “How did you create your design?”
- “Why did you use the materials you selected?”
- “What would you do differently?”
- “How did your project help other people?”

## Identification of Entry



Name(s), county and level of participation should be displayed with each entry. 4-H Project Exhibit cards are available, but not required.

## Parents' & Volunteers' Guide



Like all 4-H projects, this activity is just for young people. It is expected that the young person create an original quilted object. The role of adult helpers is to support and encourage youth in their efforts, to ask and answer questions about the project, and to help youth learn specific techniques that they might use in their project.

### **Advancing Through Competition:**

Congratulations! If you make it to Regional/Area or State Congress, you are among the best in Alabama! The judges recognize that you have come up with a really good project and made great choices. Your hard work and your skill created something wonderful.

4-H Regional/Area Awards will be determined by the planning committee for that event. Notice will be sent to each county involved.

### **State Competition and Awards:**

Each county may register one Senior Level I and one Senior Level II individual in each event that is offered.

On the state level, ribbons will be awarded to 50% of the participants in a contest using ordinal rankings up to a tenth place ranking. Example: If there are 10 participants, first place will receive the Alabama State Trophy and a first place ribbon; placing ribbons will be awarded for the next four ranked participants for placing of second through fifth. The other five participants will receive honorable mention ribbons.

### **Above and Beyond:**

All 4-H projects can be taken "above and beyond" just being a short-term activity. Awards and recognition throughout Alabama 4-H are not based on how well you do in competitive events; they are based on your all-round community service, leadership, and project work.

Here are some ideas for taking your interest in **Quilting** to a level where you can both grow as a person and have an impact on the lives of others:

- Hold a different kind of competition: divide your club, your youth group, or your friends into teams and provide all teams with the same supplies. Give them a set amount of time. See whose quilt square is best.
- Organize a community show of 4-H quilts and other art projects.
- Sell your quilt on-line or at a community event.
- Create a web site with photos of the quilts.
- Teach younger kids to do quilting.
- Make a digital story about your project or create a hand-made book.

- Take photographs of your project.
- Create a 3-D model of your quilt using CAD (Computer Aided Design) software.
- Pretend that your quilt is an old, historical quilt. Write and illustrate a children's story about the people who once snuggled under your quilt.
- Invite a quilter to provide a workshop.
- Auction off quilted items to raise money for 4-H or Habitat for Humanity.

### **Judging Guidelines:**

The selection of the judges is important to the success of the event. The ideal judge knows about quilting and design and can easily chat with young people. The selection of a quilter, art teacher, and working artist or crafter provides a perfect judging panel.

On the day of the event, each individual or team enters the judging area in a designated order. The facilitator will introduce the participants to the judges.

The participants will do a brief presentation on their quilt and their community service project.

The judges will talk informally with the participants about the quilt and the community service within the project. Judges are encouraged to positively offer their comments on the quilt and project, what was most effective, and suggestions for improvement.

At State Competition, judges will rank entries based on originality, quality of project, and responses to the judges' questions.

The quilt will carry 75% of the score and the service project will carry 25% of the score.

### **Career Connections:**

Skills that are developed through this project have direct connections to a number of exciting and rewarding careers. These include: Architecture, Construction, Fine Art, Art Therapy, Advertising, Fashion Design, Craft, Graphic Design, Illustration, Teaching, Industrial Design, Interior Design, and Museum Display. Further career-related skills are developed in the Above and Beyond section. These include teaching, planning, leadership, and organization. If quilts are sold, there is also an element of entrepreneurship.

# How I Have Helped Others: My 4-H Community Service Report

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*  
- Gandhi

**Name:**  
**County:**  
**Date:**  
**Number of Youth Served:**  
**Number of Adults Served:**  
**Start & End Date:**

**Number of People Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Did you recruit others to help?*

**Total Hours of Effort:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Your time and the time of volunteers you recruited.*

**Briefly describe your project:**

**Reflection.** What difference did this project make in your life or in the lives of others?

**Documentation** Provide photographs and any publicity such as news clippings.

**Examples of Service Projects:**

- *I visited a class of 20 1<sup>st</sup> Graders and got them to tell stories about their pets. This helped them learn to talk in front of a group.*
- *I got kids in my Club to help me plant pansies in the flower bed at the library. They learned good gardening technique and provided something pretty for our community. We put up a sign: "Flowers provided by the High Hopes 4-H Club."*
- *My friends and I participated in the Community Arts Festival. We displayed our quilts in a 4-H booth and taught younger kids how to make quilt square designs using glue and paper.*
- *I grew lots of squash in my garden. I took some to the Food Bank and gave some to elderly neighbors. I put 4-H Clovers on the paper bags.*

**Estimated monetary value: \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
*What do you think your service was worth to the community? You can estimate the dollar value of the volunteers' time. For youth, value their time at minimum wage, \$7.25/hour. For adults, use \$20.25/hour.*

**Quilting Score Sheet**

The purpose of this event is to provide young people with an opportunity for self-expression and to engage in meaningful community service. Judging should equally emphasize originality, creativity and the benefits of helping others.

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Level: \_\_\_ **Junior** (Ages 9-11) \_\_\_ Intermediate (Ages 12-13) \_\_\_ **Senior I** (Ages 14-15) \_\_\_ **Senior II** (Ages 16-18)

This Score Sheet is designed for ordinal rankings using the total score in the first column. JUNIOR scoring can use this same card without the community service value.

| CATEGORY   | Excellent | Good | Need Improvement | Points Received | Comments |
|--|-----------|------|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Quality of Construction</b><br><b>25 points</b><br>The project shows considerable attention to construction. It is solidly crafted and well put together.     |           |      |                  |                 |          |
| <b>Design – 25 points</b><br>Project is appropriate size and interesting shape and is arranged well. Project is attractive and well proportioned.                |           |      |                  |                 |          |
| <b>Creativity – 25 pts</b><br>Materials used in the project reflect an exceptional degree of creativity in their arrangement and display.                        |           |      |                  |                 |          |
| <b>Community Service -- Seniors</b><br><b>25 points</b><br>Organized and implemented an original service project that had great community impact and visibility. |           |      |                  |                 |          |
| <b>Total Score</b><br><br><b>Up to 100 Points</b>  |           |      |                  |                 |          |

**Disqualification:** Check as appropriate

- Using a kit, pattern or fabric packet.
- Senior Level using glue to put quilt together.
- Senior Level not completing community service report and submitting report in a timely minor.