

America250 Quilt Show at Poplar Hill Mansion

September 27, 2026 12:00-4:00

Ever since the American War for Independence, women created quilts with patriotic colors and motifs. Early quilt blocks such as Lincoln's Platform, Whig's Defeat, Tippecanoe, Log Cabin, and War Between the States, show that women were interested in and influenced by national events, such as politics, westward expansion, and war, even when their lives were mostly confined to the home. Quilts have always been an expression of art and a time capsule in American history. Poplar Hill Mansion continues this rich tradition as we celebrate the Semiquincentennial with the *America250* Quilt Show in 2026. This non-juried show will allow quilters from the region to submit their interpretations of American patriotism and the American spirit. This show will consist of five categories each with a unique theme of Americanism. Winners in each category and Best in Show will be chosen by votes of the people, just as our democracy has been in its 250 years of history. Prizes will be awarded to each winner.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Quilt Size:** All sizes are welcome
- **Techniques:** All techniques are welcome, including traditional piecing, appliquéd, and modern quilting. Quilts can be hand or machine pieced and/or quilted.
- **Originality:** We encourage unique and creative interpretations of the overall theme
- **Submission Period:** August 15, 2026 – September 6, 2026
- **Submission Method:**
 - Anyone can enter a quilt by submitting an online entry form (starting in April of 2026), with two digital images (one full view front and one full view back).
- **Rules:**
 - **America250 Patriotic Theme:** The quilt must celebrate and honor the American spirit with a clear patriotic focus no matter the category chosen in which to enter the quilt.
Please follow the guidelines for each category:
 - **Three Cheers for the Red, White, & Blue:** the quilt may only feature shades of red, white, and blue fabrics
 - **America the Beautiful:** the quilt should be inspired by the geographical features, landscapes, and skylines of the United States
 - **I've Been Everywhere:** the quilt incorporates place names of the United States either in its pattern or block names (i.e. Baltimore Album, Ohio Star, Arkansas Traveler, etc.)
 - **Home of the Brave:** the quilt must be inspired by the American Armed Forces including military experiences and conflicts

- **Ballad of Americans:** quilts inspired in American history and folklore (i.e. Underground Railroad, Log Cabin, Dresden Plate, etc.)
- A singular quilt may only be entered into one (1) of the five categories
- Limit one entry per person or team in each category (different quilts made by the same person or team may be submitted in different categories).
- There must be an identification label with the quiltmaker's name, year, address, and the title of the quilt attached to the lower left corner of the back.
- **All quilters involved in the making of the quilt must be listed on the entry form.**
- All quilts must be quilted by hand, machine, or both. Quilting is defined as a running stitch that passes through a top, middle layer, and backing fabric. The quilt must consist of three (3) layers: quilt top, batting, and backing.
- Quilts must be in excellent condition. Incomplete, torn, or soiled quilts do not qualify for entry or display.
- Quilts must be a single unit and may not be framed with wood, metal, etc. No rods may be sewn into a quilt.
- Quilts must be titled and the title must be 35 characters or less, including spaces.
- **Notification of Acceptance:** All quilts in adherence to the above rules will be accepted for the show.
- **Quilt Availability:**
 - All quilt entries must be dropped-off at Poplar Hill Mansion by September 19 and will be on display outdoors on Sept 27. The rain date for the event is October 4.
 - Quilts will be ready for pick-up by their owners the day after the show for a period of two weeks. If owners have not picked-up their quilts within the two week time frame following the show, or arrangements been previously made with staff of Poplar Hill Mansion for a later pick-up date, the quilt becomes property of Poplar Hill Mansion.
- **Winners:** Each of the five categories will have a (1) winner and there will also be a Best in Show. The same person may win multiple categories with different entries. Winners are chosen via “people’s choice” (votes by those in attendance).
- **Quilt Photography:** Quilts are photographed for use in publications, publicity, and for education purposes.
- **Permissions:**
 - **It is the quiltmaker’s responsibility to obtain all necessary written copyright releases for work that is covered under copyright laws of the United States.** This includes using someone else’s pattern, artwork, photography, or another quilt as your inspiration, even if the design has been altered. Fabric panels are not considered Totally Original and the fabric designer must be named.