



## Celebration 2026 Quilt Challenge - "Stars And Stripes Forever"

Okay, Folks, **Who** doesn't love a good contest to compete for winning fame, ribbons, and recognition? The Celebration 2026 Team challenges you to interpret this year's theme, "**Americana.**"

In 1976, the bicentennial helped to revive the art of quilting. Hopefully we will see interest grow celebrating the 250th year anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Think beyond Red, White, and Blue. Think Purple Mountains **Striped** Majesty or **Stars** in My Eyes Over the Mississippi! Use your quilter's creative juices to create what Celebration 2026's theme comes to mind for you!

### **Additional Guidelines:**

- ① Your quilt must have **stars** or **stripes** or **both**. The **stars** or **stripes** or **both** can be in the pattern, in the fabric, or both and can be any color. It can be **all stars** or **all stripes** or a **combination**.
- ② Quilts may be any size. **Please use the Quilt Entry form and submit by April 10, 2026 for quilts up to 70' X 70". Please submit Quilt Entry form by March 1, 2026 if it will be over 70" X 70".**
- ③ Your quilt must be made with a top and bottom layer and batting in between with stitching holding it together.
- ④ Your quilt may be pieced or appliqued, modern or traditional. Any technique is acceptable. Other than that it is all up to you and your imagination!
- ⑤ Your quilt must have a label sewn on the back bottom left hand corner with at least your name, the quilt's name, and the date completed. (this will be covered up for anonymity during competition)
- ⑥ Your quilt must have a sleeve sewn on the back with a 4" wide hanging sleeve to slide it onto the display frame. For heavy quilts and quilts wider than 80" you may consider making a split sleeve if it needs additional frame support.
- ⑦ Each Celebration participant can enter ONE quilt which must have been completed in 2025 or 2026.

This will be a "**Viewer's Choice**" competition. There will be award ribbons for the **Best in Show** -First, Second and Third place AND **Best Interpretation of Theme** – First, Second and Third place quilts, as determined by the Celebration! 2026 attendees. We are asking each Celebration attendee entering a challenge quilt to complete a **pre-entry form** with basic information.

**Deadline for this entry form will be two weeks before Celebration 2026.** Turn in your completed quilt at registration on Thursday by 4:00 pm, April 24, 2026, so we will have time to set up the display. Your creation must be registered and numbered so the Celebration attendees will have a chance to vote for their favorite challenge interpretation.

### **Questions?**

Contact Kitty Bull, Heidi Haynes, Susan Fulton, or Kathleen Hippeli at [QuiltChallenge@vcq.org](mailto:QuiltChallenge@vcq.org)