

---

## JUDGING AT THE FAIR

---

Judging at the Tanana Valley State Fair is accomplished through a network of volunteers. Judges are recruited & chosen for their expertise in a particular area, and it is through their generous donation of time & knowledge that we are able to showcase your achievements.

Judges are trained by the superintendents to follow the guidelines set down by the Fair Association.

They are expected to:

- be fair & consistent in their judging
- provide positive comments & constructive criticism to the exhibitor
- follow the Fair Association's mission to educate participants through their evaluation

Each exhibit must have a completed score sheet. These score sheets are for the education of the exhibitor only & are not for public view.

An exhibitor may request to see a score sheet for any of their entries by asking the exhibit attendant on duty, asking the superintendent, or requesting assistance through the Office.

Although our judges work hard to provide a positive experience for the exhibitor, sometimes there can be discrepancies or inconsistencies. If so, the exhibitor is encouraged to contact the superintendent who can investigate the problem.

If necessary, the exhibitor may file a protest through the Fair Office. A \$25.00 fee must accompany any protest filed.

Please contact the competitive exhibits manager for further information.

---

## PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

---

**Special Preparations:** Due to the limited space, exhibits should be limited in size to approximately 160" total around. Entries must be easy to hang on metal crossed wire panels using large metal clips. All ornamental wall hangings are to be original (no kits), made of fiber, and quilted. The work is to be done and quilted by one person or club.

Judging will be based on originality, technique, complexity, difficulty and overall presentation.

### Definitions:

Quilted: stitched, fastened, or sewn layers with padding in between (at least 3 layers).

Fiber: material made of fine threadlike filaments such as cotton, plastic, jute, metal, nylon, etc.

Examine your entry closely for soil, pet hair, loose threads, etc. Judges will expect your art quilt to be "show ready", meaning as clean as possible and ready to hang. If your quilt has an unpleasant odor (i.e., smoke, pet smells, mildew, etc.) it may not be displayed.

Cover any personalized labels which would reveal your identity.

---

## QUESTIONS

---

We have tried to create a category for all entries, but if you have any questions about your entry, please call the Division Superintendent well before the entry deadline.

If you are unable to reach the Division Superintendent, the Fair Office is here to help. Call us anytime between the hours of 9 am & 5 pm, Monday through Friday or e-mail [exhibits@tvsfa.org](mailto:exhibits@tvsfa.org).

**Tanana Valley State Fair Association**  
1800 College Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4173  
452-3750  
[www.tvsfa.org](http://www.tvsfa.org)



---

## DIVISION 24B

---

Welcome to the world of Competitive Exhibits! As an exhibitor at the fair, you are entering into a long standing tradition of education & competition that began in the Tanana Valley in 1924.

Your primary source of information about entering an exhibit is through the Exhibitors Guide, available online or at the Fair Office. This handbook will provide you with some additional information as well as judging criteria. and sample judging sheets.

---

## ENTRY RULES

---

- **Get your Fair I.D. number & exhibit tags** from the Fair Office. Fill out Exhibit Tags before you arrive on entry day. Don't wait until the last minute - know what you will enter & have your exhibit tags ready well before entry day.
- **Pick your Best:** You may enter only one exhibit per lot, so choose that item which best demonstrates your skill or knowledge
- **Know your entry and pick-up days.**
- **Prepare your entry:** Read the paragraph on preparation & presentation and present your exhibit in the best way possible.

## Categories judges will consider:

### I Techniques:

#### General

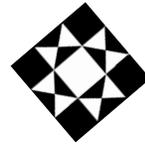
- Quilt should lie flat
- Width of sashing should be even throughout
- Corners of adjacent blocks should be exactly opposite each other
- Corners should be square

#### Piecing

- Points of triangles and diamonds should be sharp, not cut off
- Corners and points should meet precisely
- There should be no holes or bumps where seams of points come together
- Long seams should be straight
- Curved seams should be smooth, with no puckers or flat spots
- Stitches should be close enough, small enough and firm enough so seams do not pull open
- Thread color should not show in seams
- Seams should be pressed flat
- Direction of pressed seams should be consistent and logical
- There should be no shadows; seam allowances or loose threads showing through light colored fabrics
- Seam allowances should be adequate to prevent seams from raveling

#### Applique

- Appliquéd pieces should lie flat, with no bumps, puckers or distortions
- Curves should be smoothly rounded
- Points should be sharp and clean; outside points should not appear bulky and inside points should not have raw edges of fabric working loose
- Markings should not show
- There should be no shadows of dark fabrics under light fabrics
- Stitches should be small enough, close enough, and pulled tight enough to hold pieces firmly to background



#### Quilting

- Stitches and spaces between should be of same length
- Straight lines should be straight; curved lines should be smooth
- Knots should not show
- Stitches should be same on back and front
- Marking of design should not show
- Fabric should not appear distorted by quilting
- Extra stuffing in trapunto or cording should feel soft and not distort the fabric
- There should be no puckers or pleats caused by the quilting, on either the front or the back
- Amount of quilting should be appropriate to design and use of quilt
- Choice of quilting design should enhance quilt
- On machine quilting, tension should be adjusted so top threads are not pulled to back and vice versa

#### Binding

- Batting should come all the way to edge of binding
- Binding should be smooth and straight; (do not stretch binding when sewing)
- Corners of binding should be turned smoothly and identically
- Binding should be in proportion to quilt
- Miters should angle directly to corner and, if necessary, be invisibly stitched down
- When hand sewing binding, thread should match binding and stitches should be firm, invisible and close together

#### Visual Impact

- There should be unity in the color scheme
- Borders and sashing should complement the quilt rather than appearing as an afterthought
- Composition of design should be balanced
- Use of value/contrast should allow design to be

---

## SECURITY

---

You are encouraged to enter your best work. The Competitive Exhibits team (staff, superintendents, judges & volunteers) all recognize the value these hold & all effort is made to provide for their security.

Each building has a team of volunteers to watch over the exhibits & to make sure they are not handled or stolen, but because of the volume of entries we get each year, we cannot guarantee the safety of each exhibit.

