

STATE YOUR CASE

Your challenge is to select a U.S. state (or states) as your basic design premise from which to interpret the 2009 Quilt Show's theme: *Quilting USA*. (For purposes of this challenge, the term "state" encompasses U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia.)

Now for those who may be asking yourselves, "How do I do that?" we offer a few ideas to get your creative juices flowing. You might depict your state's official bird, flower, motto, etc.; make a sampler of state-designated blocks or other blocks named for states (e.g., Road to Oklahoma, Ohio Star, Kansas Troubles); make a landscape quilt of a coastal beach, mountain lake or other favorite vacation spot, or of a national icon (Statue of Liberty, Washington Monument); select a state with a large Amish population and make an Amish quilt. We're sure many of you will come up with even better ideas as you accept the challenge. The possibilities are endless.

Here are the Rules:

- 1) You may use any fabrics and quilting techniques you choose. There is no specific challenge fabric. However, your finished quilt top must include a discernible amount of the colors red, white, and blue either inherently in the design, or added as a highlight.
- 2) All quilts must be square or rectangular, with width and length between 35 and 45 inches (maximum 180" perimeter). Rectangles may be either landscape or portrait configuration.
- 3) Entries must be quilted by hand or machine, or both. Non-quilted items will not be accepted.
- 4) The name of the states(s) or territory you selected must appear on your quilt's label. You are encouraged to include the rationale for your selection on your label or in your artist's statement.
- 5) As in past years, eight of our challenge entries will be selected for submission to the American Quilters Society's *Ultimate Guild Challenge*. For your quilt to be eligible for consideration, the following AQS rules must be observed:

Quilts must be in excellent condition, having no stains, pet hair, or smoke or other odors.

Each quilt must have a 4 inch hanging sleeve or rod pocket that is sewn 2 inch from the top edge (see attached instructions) and a label containing the quiltmaker's name attached securely on the back.

Quilts displayed in a previous AQS contest (Paducah, Nashville, Des Moines) or made from pre-cut or stamped kits are ineligible.

Quilts must be a single unit and not framed with wood, metal, glass, etc.

Deadline for turning in your challenge quilts is **March 2, 2009**. This is a month earlier than the show turn-in date to allow time to judge and photograph the quilts to meet the April 1, 2009 deadline for submitting the selected eight quilts to the AQS Ultimate Guild Challenge.

If you have questions, please contact Roma Knee at 301-593-1847, or by email: Romaknee@aol.com