

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Annual Festivals - Quilt and Craft Tips

Over the last several years, many quilt and craft participants have asked for suggestions of what makes a quilt or craft item sell for a high price, and what the judges look for in judging the items. The following is a list of tips on what appeals to the judges and buyers alike. We hope these will prove helpful as you work on your quilt or craft item. Thank you for your hard work. We appreciate your labor of love.

QUILTS

Judging Categories:

Hand Quilted	Machine Quilted
Appliquéd	Appliquéd
Baby Quilts	Baby Quilts
Embroidered	Embroidered
Pieced	Pieced
Whole Cloth	Whole Cloth
Pre-Printed	Pre-Printed
Pre-Printed Baby Quilts	Pre-Printed Baby Quilts

- Color selection** - Whether it is a craft item or quilt, color choice is key in affecting the desirability of a piece. Colors that tend to do especially well are shades of blue, mauve, rose, forest green, mint green and cream. Colors that don't sell as well include brown, orange, gold, lime green and red. As with many home items, the popular colors found in retail stores are the colors to which people will be most likely attracted. The fabric used for the back of the quilt should coordinate with the front. It is always important to use appropriate color to coordinate with fabric.
- Fabric selection** - Quilts tend to sell better when the fabric used is coordinated, as opposed to random swatches of many different colors of fabrics. Several fabrics may be used, but those that are color coordinated will bring a higher price. The type of fabric used also plays a part in the overall beauty of the piece. For example, a cotton or polyester fabric will be more appealing than quilts made in heavy knits. Quilt fabrics should be pre-washed and similar in weight and texture. Fabric used for the back of the quilt should be of the same quality as the front.
- Size** - Queen and King size quilts sell the best. Twin size quilts do not sell as well, and bring a lower price. To assure consistency in quilt sizes, the following measurements are used in determining quilt sizes at the auction. When determining quilt size, we consider the width of the quilt first and then the length.

	Width	Length
Twin	64-72	86-90
Full	70-88	88-100
Queen	88-99	94-108
King	99-108	94-108
- Accessories** - Matching pillows, shams or wall hangings are little extras that help increase the sale price of a quilt. When a buyer knows they won't have to go out searching for pillows to match their new quilt, they are more likely to bid higher on an item.
- Pattern** - Quilts with painted or hand drawn pictures or messages will **not** bring as high a price in the auction. Quilts done with embroidery, appliqué or piecing are a better idea. **Whole cloth quilts in both white and cream in queen and king sizes are very popular and sell extremely well. These not only showcase the fine craftsmanship in quilting, but are beautiful keepsakes for any décor or color scheme.**
- Edging** - Finishing off the edges of a quilt in an attractive way will help increase the sale price. The edging needs to coordinate with the body of the quilt; edging that does not match generally lowers the price of a quilt. Binding should be firm, filled with all three layers of material with no pulls or ripples. Corners, points and curves should be precisely done, with no raw seams visible.

7. **Pencil marks and soiled areas** - A quilt with visible pencil marks showing the patterns will not bring as high a price as those without. Also be careful about soiled areas or spots on the quilt. Buyers tend to be very cautious about buying a quilt that is soiled in any way.
8. **Antique quilts** - Aged or antique quilts seldom bring as high a selling price as the donor would hope. Most buyers want a new quilt to actually use in their home.
9. **Appliqué tips** - There should be no raw edges showing on appliqué. If lighter shades of fabric are appliquéd on top of darker shades, the lighter ones should be lined to keep the underneath colors from showing through. The appliqué thread should match the pieces of the appliqué.
10. **Workmanship:**
 - Quilting stitches should be consistent, **small**, even running stitches on both the front and the back, and go through all three layers consistently.
 - Joining seams should be neat, straight and flat.
 - No knots or backstitches should be visible on top or back of the quilt.
 - Patchwork pieces should be cut with the grain.
 - Patchwork corners should meet evenly.
 - Patchwork pieces should be trimmed evenly and pressed toward the dark side of the seam so they will not show through.
 - If utilizing block form of construction, uniformity of block size and grainline within blocks adds to overall appearance.
 - Finished article should be neat and clean, and “squared” when it lies flat.

CRAFTS

Judging Categories:

Crochet	Baby Afghans
Wall Hangings	Afghans
Framed Needlework	Unusual/Outstanding
Decorative Wood Crafts	Handcrafted Wood Furniture

1. **Color and Fabric Selection** - Like quilts, color and fabric choices are important in craft items as well. See the above explanation.
2. Adult and baby afghans sell well. Wood crafts, large crochet tablecloths or table runners, elaborate framed needlework and very well made dolls and well made household decorator items all sell well.
3. Stained woodcrafts sell better than natural wood items.
4. Baby items sell much better in traditional pastels than in alternative color choices.
5. Any kind of artwork or needlework will bring a better price if it is framed. Framed counted cross-stitch usually does quite well.
6. Blocked afghans that hold their shape will sell better than those that aren't blocked.
7. Plastic canvas needlepoint does not sell well.
8. Unique high-quality decorating items sell well, but be very careful when shipping any items that have silk or dried flowers – they do not travel well.
9. Inexpensive craft items that focus on the theme of the festival (strawberry, apple, berry) are usually good sellers.
10. Ceramics are very difficult to ship and usually don't sell well, with the exception of well-done nativity scenes.
11. Embroidered kitchen towels and embroidered pillowcases sell very well, particularly as sets.