

2026 Guild Challenge: America the Beautiful

In recognition of American 250, the 2026 Challenge theme is [America the Beautiful](#).

Rules

- Quilts should be either square or rectangle, measuring between 70-140 inches in perimeter
- Quilts must have a border/frame between 1-3"
- Quilts must have a label on the back with the minimum of the creator's name, the quilt's name, and the year made
- Quilts must be complete: quilted and bound
- Quilts either must include at least ONE Star or must utilize stripes as a motif somewhere within the quilt
- Quilts may use a panel, but the panel cannot make up more than 50% of the quilt
- Quilts must be completed by the August 2026 Guild meeting, where they will be displayed
- Members participating may submit up to two (2) quilts

Further Considerations:

In terms of representing the theme of America the Beautiful, think **BROADLY**.

What does America the Beautiful mean to you? Is it a landscape or vista? Does it reflect the heritage of the country's indigenous people or immigrant experience? Is its meaning symbolic or concrete?

For example, the design may reflect (non- exhaustive):

-Traditional representations of Americana (red, white, blue colors; flags; 1776 motifs; Uncle Sam; eagles; folk art; fireworks; etc)

- A beautiful vista or landscape in America or one which has special meaning to you- a field of Texas bluebonnets, Michigan Apple Blossoms, the Great Lakes, San Francisco Bridge, Grand Canyon, Statue of Liberty Harbor, Mount Rushmore, Western sunset, Big sky country in Wyoming etc.
- Visual representation of a Tradition, Culture or Historical Event that is somehow uniquely American- baseball, apple pie, national folk music, the immigrant experience, and its changing landscape, Native American heritage or tribes, 1960's fashion, Motown Music, the Great Migration, the Industrial North our National Parks, American cinema, literature, our agricultural background, civil rights leaders, labor unions, freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, founding fathers or mothers, the Underground Railroad, wide open spaces, etc.

The possibilities are endless!

WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL IN AMERICA OR MAKES LIFE BEAUTIFUL to *YOU* in AMERICA?

The Guild will have an opportunity to exhibit these quilts in one or two branches of the Capital Area District Libraries in autumn 2026, for those of us interested.