

# 2026 Garden Quilt Show

## at Reiman Gardens

Hosted by the Iowa Quilters Guild

March 20, 21, & 22, 2026

Friday & Saturday – 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Thank you for your interest in the Garden Quilt Show at Reiman Gardens. Our goal is to promote the art of quilting, by displaying a unique collection of “garden-themed” quilts created by talented Midwesterners, and provide instruction, demonstrations and lectures for both novice and experienced quilters. We hope that everyone who attends will be inspired by the quilts as well as the living beauty through the Gardens, in the Conservatory, and within the Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing.*

### Official Quilt Contest Categories for 2026

#### **Big & Small**

Go **BIG** with a quilt that includes large-scale prints (time to let those Kaffe fabrics shine), big subjects (think elephants, skyscrapers, or maybe outer space!), or blocks with something big in the name (Around the World, Road to California, Setting Sun, etc.).

Or go the opposite direction and enter a **SMALL** quilt made of small blocks (less than 4”), small subjects (think insects, fairies, or tiny houses), or blocks with something small in the name (Shoo Fly, Snail Trail, Children’s Delight, etc.)

Special award will be given to the best gnome-themed quilt in honor of the World’s Largest Concrete Gnome Elwood who has resided at Reiman Gardens for 15 years!

#### **We’ve Got the Biggest Bulbs of Them All! (Garden Theme)**

Yes – Reiman Gardens can be a bit gray in the winter, but they’ve got a cure for that...flowering **BULBS!** The large bulb display in the conservatory will be the perfect compliment for quilts with a garden theme.

Quilts in this category need to contain a “garden” component. That may be nature-themed fabric, a block with a nature-theme (like Flying Geese, Daylily, Nosegay, Bear Paw, etc.), or an overall garden/nature theme.

Special awards will go to the best butterfly-, moth-, or insect-themed quilt in honor of the Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing at Reiman Gardens and the best bulb-themed quilt in honor of the spring conservatory display.

## **Iowa Guild Challenge**

*This special category is open to Iowa Quilters Guild members only.* Please visit [www.iowaquiltersguild.com](http://www.iowaquiltersguild.com) for information on becoming a member of the guild.

This year we are changing things up and challenging our members to submit a large or small bag of their choice. Large bags would include: tote bags, large purses, backpacks, duffels, or similar, etc. Small bags would include: small purses, fanny packs, cosmetic bags, notion bags, or similar, etc. Size categories will be judged as separate categories.

All bags will become the property of Iowa Quilters Guild after submission and be used for fund raising purposes to help support our mission of promoting the art of quilting in Iowa. **Contact [iaquiltersguild@gmail.com](mailto:iaquiltersguild@gmail.com) for more information.**

## **Big Sacrifices – Patriotic Themed Quilts**

Whether they served during peacetime or at war, our service men and women deserve our thanks. Help us reach our goal of presenting a minimum of 10 quilts to these deserving veterans. If you have someone to give a quilt to that's great, but if you would like to make a quilt for presentation and do not have a veteran in mind – we'll happily find one for you. Quilts in this category will be presented throughout the quilt show weekend at Reiman Gardens. Quilters need not be members of IQG to donate and present a quilt at this ceremony and there is no charge for entering these quilts in the show. Quilts will not be judged, but will be eligible for the daily Viewer's Choice awards and the Guild's Choice award given specifically to the best QOV displayed at the show. Due to limited hanging space, only quilts which will be presented at the quilt show will be accepted for display. **Contact [iaquiltersguild@gmail.com](mailto:iaquiltersguild@gmail.com) for registration form.**

## Official Quilt Contest Rules for 2025

1. For EACH quilt entered, the maker(s) must submit a completed and digitally signed entry form with non-refundable entry fee to Reiman Gardens no later than midnight on March 15, 2026. When entering a quilt, please designate if you'd like the quilt to be included in the judging (for Best of Show, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbons) or not. All submitted quilts, regardless of judging status, will be eligible for special awards. Registration fees are as follows:
  - a. Non-judged quilts \$7 per quilt (non-refundable entry fee)
  - b. Judged quilts \$10 per quilt (non-refundable entry fee)

**Quilt of Valor entries do not require an entry form or a non-refundable entry fee (\$0), but must be registered with Iowa Quilters Guild. Contact them at [iaquiltersguild@gmail.com](mailto:iaquiltersguild@gmail.com) for more information.**

2. There is no limit to the number of quilts which can be entered by an individual.
3. No photos are required for entry.
4. There is no limit to the size of quilts that can be entered. However, extra-large quilts may be folded as necessary to enable display of as many quilts as possible.
5. There is no requirement for a hanging sleeve/rod pocket on the quilt. Quilts will be hung using binder clips or skirt hangers.
6. When quilts are delivered to Reiman Gardens for display, the front desk staff will safety pin a copy of the application to the quilt.
7. All quilts must be constructed of three (3) layers of fabric and/or batting quilted together by hand, machine or a combination of the two methods and must be in excellent condition.
8. Traditional or modern appliqué quilts must be predominantly appliquéd and may be embellished. Traditional or modern pieced quilts must be predominantly pieced and may be embellished. A traditional or modern quilt does not have to be original and can be made from a pattern or kit. It may be made or quilted by someone other than the entrant. A quilt does not have to be a traditional block design to be considered a traditional quilt. **All art-like quilts that are not of original design (purchased as a kit or made from a pattern) would still be considered a traditional quilt.**
9. Art quilts may be pieced or appliquéd or a combination and may be embellished. An art quilt must be the entrant's original design and must be completely constructed and quilted by the entrant. Any quilt with a quilter listed who is *not* the submitter must be entered as a traditional quilt.
10. All decisions of the judges are final. Judges will view the quilts before awarding prizes. See the prize list for more details on prizes planned.
11. IQG and Reiman Gardens take great pride in the quality of our quilt show. Entered quilts must be free of pet hair, clean, and be free of odor. We reserve the right not to hang quilts that do not meet these requirements.

## Official 2025 Quilt Contest Deadlines

*March 15, 2026 (Sunday):* For EACH quilt entered, the maker(s) must submit a completed and signed entry form and the appropriate non-refundable entry fee (\$7 for non-judged, \$10 for judged).

*March 9-18, 2026:* Quilts may be brought (or sent) to Reiman Gardens and must be received by **NOON March 19<sup>th</sup>**.

March 19, 2026: Quilt show will be hung starting at noon and judged later that afternoon.

*March 20-22, 2026:* Garden **Quilt Show**. All entrants to the Quilt Contest receive free admission. (Only entrants receive free admission, not their guests.)

*March 22, 2026: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.* Displayed quilts may be retrieved at Reiman Gardens. Please be kind and DO NOT request your quilts be taken down prior to the end of the show. The show staff needs time to get the quilts down, sort them accordingly, and make sure everything is organized so that quilts do not go home with the wrong person. The doors to the show will be locked at 4:30pm. Quilters wishing to pick up their quilts shall be asked to form a queue in the hallway and wait for their quilt(s) to be retrieved. No quilt shall leave Reiman Gardens without the signature of the quilter or a designated person.

*March 23-27, 2026:* Quilts must be retrieved by owners, designated person, or postage/ mailing materials to return quilt must be received by Reiman Gardens.



Reiman Gardens creates a striking entrance to Iowa State University and the city of 2,500-square-foot indoor butterfly wing, a gift shop and much more. Our mission is to educate, enchant, and inspire an appreciation of plants, butterflies, and the beauty of the natural world.

### About Iowa Quilters Guild

The Iowa Quilters Guild (IQG) is the state quilt guild for all of Iowa! IQG was organized as a non-profit organization in August 1979 for the purpose of promoting the art of quilting. The IQG is a non-profit group supported 100% from fundraising efforts such as the annual quilting boutique at the Reiman Gardens' Garden Quilt Show, education programs, memberships, and private gifts. Dues are \$10.00 per year, payable after July 1. The mission is to promote the art of quilting in Iowa. Our guild fulfills this mission by organizing quilting retreats, classes, lectures, participating in the Quilt of Valor program, and assisting with the Reiman Gardens' Garden Quilt Show.

## **Official Quilt Contest Prize Packages for 2026**

**Best of Show** (1 package total) - Chosen by the official judge.

- Best of Show ribbon.
- A \$100 gift certificate
- A free 1-year membership to the Iowa Quilters Guild.

**1st Place** (9 packages total) - Chosen by the official judge.

- **Big & Small (2 categories) and Garden categories only**
- A 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon.
- A \$50 gift certificate
- A free 1-year membership to the Iowa Quilters Guild.

**2nd Place** (9 packages total) - Chosen by the official judge.

- **Big & Small (2 categories) and Garden categories only**
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbon.
- A \$25 gift certificate
- A free 1-year membership to the Iowa Quilters Guild.

**1st Place** (2 packages total) - Chosen by the official judge.

- **Challenge (2 categories) category only**
- A 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon.
- A \$20 cash prize.

**2nd Place** (2 package total) - Chosen by the official judge.

- **Challenge (2 categories) category only**
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbon.
- A \$15 cash prize.

**3rd Place** (2 package total) - Chosen by the official judge.

- **Challenge (2 categories) category only**
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbon.
- A \$10 cash prize.

**Viewer's Choice** (3 package total) - Chosen through popular vote by those attending the show each day of the show.

- A Viewer's Choice ribbon.
- A \$25 cash prize.
- A free 1-year membership to the Iowa Quilters Guild.

**Director's Choice** (1 package total) - Chosen by a member of the Reiman Gardens' staff.

- A Director's Choice ribbon.
- A \$25 gift certificate
- A free 1-year membership to Reiman Gardens.
- A free 1-year membership to the Iowa Quilters Guild.

**President's Choice** (1 package total) - Chosen by the President of Iowa Quilters Guild for the best hand workmanship.

- A ribbon will be given.
- \$50 cash prize

**Quilt Show Chair's Choice** (1 package total) - Chosen by the Quilt Show Chairs of IQG for the best use of embellishments.

- A ribbon will be given.
- \$50 cash prize

**Guild's Choice** (1 package total) - Chosen by the IQG Members through popular vote.

- **Patriotic category only**

- A ribbon will be given.
- \$50 cash prize

**Best Gnome Quilt** (1 package total) – Chosen by the Quilt Show Volunteers

- A ribbon will be given.
- \$50 cash prize

**Best Butterfly/Moth/Insect Quilt** – Chosen by the Quilt Show Volunteers

- A ribbon will be given.
- \$50 cash prize

**Best Bulb Quilt** – Chosen by the Quilt Show Volunteers

- A ribbon will be given.
- \$50 cash prize

## **ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE:**

Click the link below to enter quilts and pay the entry fee(s) to Reiman Gardens electronically.

[https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eFHPATL1FN9E2LI](https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFHPATL1FN9E2LI)

Or you may still complete the pages that follow, print them, and send the entry fee(s) to Reiman Gardens via check.

# Reiman Garden's - Garden Quilt Show

## Official Quilt Contest Entry Form for 2026

Submit one (1) form for each quilt entered in contest. **Reminder – online registration and entry fee payment is available at [https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eFHPATL1FN9E2LI](https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFHPATL1FN9E2LI).**

Entrant's Name:					
Address:					
City:		State:		ZIP:	
Phone:		Email:			

**Categories** - Check one category and quilt type only. See official rules and category descriptions for more information.

<b>CATEGORY:</b>	<b>Big</b>	Quilts displaying the Reiman Garden's 2025 theme Big & Small. This category will contain those representing "Big".
	<b>Small</b>	Quilts displaying the Reiman Garden's 2025 theme Big & Small. This category will contain those representing "Small".
	<b>We've Got the Biggest Bulbs of Them All! (Garden)</b>	Quilts in this category must include a natural theme in the design either by including fabrics which display a natural theme in the pattern or by creating a natural theme in the quilt pattern.

Type	Description	Check (X) Box to Register Quilt					
		Big (Exclude from Judging)	Big (Include in Judging)	Small (Exclude from Judging)	Small (Include in Judging)	Garden (Exclude from Judging)	Garden (Include in Judging)
		\$7 fee	\$10 fee	\$7 fee	\$10 fee	\$7 fee	\$10 fee
<b>Appliqué</b>	Traditional or modern appliqué quilts must be predominantly appliquéd and may be embellished.						
<b>Pieced</b>	Traditional or modern pieced quilts must be predominantly pieced and may be embellished. A traditional or modern quilt does not have to be original and can be made from a pattern or kit. It may be made or quilted by someone other than the entrant. A quilt does not have to be a traditional block design to be considered a traditional quilt. <u>All art-like quilts that are not of original design (by the quilter entering the quilt) would still be considered a traditional quilt.</u>						
<b>Art</b>	Art quilts may be pieced or appliquéd or a combination and may be embellished. <b>An art quilt must be the entrant's original design (not a pattern or kit) and must be completely constructed and quilted by the entrant. Any quilt with a quilter listed who is <i>not</i> the submitter must be entered as a traditional quilt.</b>						

Quilt Title:					
Dimensions:	Width (Across Top of Quilt)	Inches	X	Length (Down Side of Quilt)	Inches
Top Made By:					
Quilted By:					
Indicate pattern, book, etc. used as a design source:					

Entrant's Name:	
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Quilt Title:

Tell us about your quilt. If you did not make it, how did you obtain it? What inspired you to make it? What special techniques, materials, embellishments, etc. were used to create the quilt?

I give permission to Reiman Gardens, Iowa Quilters Guild, and the public to share photographs of my quilt on their websites and social media.

X

YES

X

NO\*

\*If NO, please provide sufficient signage to inform the public that photographs of your quilt should not be shared. Reiman Gardens and Iowa Quilters Guild take no responsibility for preventing the sharing of photos by viewers.

Signature:

(typed name considered digital signature)

Date:

Please mail completed contest entry form/s to the address below, or scan and email completed form/s to [rgevents@iastate.edu](mailto:rgevents@iastate.edu), no later than *midnight, March 15, 2026*.

**Reiman Gardens - Events Coordinator - 1407 University Blvd. - Ames, IA 50011**