



Quilts Across America

Off the Floor, into a Bed, and under a Quilt

Shop Owners' Promo Packet and Sample Planning Guide

Studio 180 Design and Tucker University cordially invite you to become a part of the Quilts Across America!

Studio 180 Design (S180D) and Tucker University (TU) support the mission of Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town." Sleep in Heavenly Peace is an international organization made up of volunteers dedicated to assembling and delivering top-notch beds to children and families in need. Check out their website for more information at:

<https://shpbeds.org/about-sleep-heavenly-peace/>

Here is a link to the Mike Rowe Facebook page featuring the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization:
<https://www.facebook.com/ReturningTheFavor/videos/2020109721593621/>

S180D and TU invite you and your fellow quilters to finish the process by providing quilts for as many beds as possible. If you would like to support your local chapter of SHP, we are happy to assist you in hosting one or more Quilts Across America events.

Studio 180 Design is leading the quilting industry in tools and techniques for quilters to achieve precision trimming of many different quilting units. S180D supports over 120 Certified Instructors who can assist your shop in kicking off additional piecing classes. Check out the S180D website at: www.studio180design.net

Tucker University writes a curriculum for shop owners and quilt instructors to teach how to use and maximize the Studio 180 Design tools and techniques. The teaching packet for each class is detailed and greatly reduces the instructor's preparation time. Check out the TU website at: www.tuckeruniversity.net

How Can I Help?

- Host one or more Quilts Across America events.
- Provide education to quilters.
- Provide education to guilds.
- Be a credible source of information and assistance.

How do I get Started?

- Become familiar with the mission of Sleep in Heavenly Peace by reviewing their website at www.shpbeds.org
- Contact your local SHP chapter to verify they are prepared to accept quilts.
- Secure a location to hold the Quilts Across America events.

I'm in. What should I do next?

- Develop a plan for your Quilts Across America event. We have provided a sample planning guide for your convenience.
- Advertise your event.
- Contact local quilt guilds and invite them to participate by offering sewing and quilting days.
- Provide quilters with a supply list for the event.
- Offer lessons on the longarm for finishing quilt tops if your shop has this service.
- Connect with a long arm quilter or ask for a volunteer or two from the group who may be willing to practice their skills on the quilts provided.

Who else might like to participate with me?

- Use your current mailing list of customers.
- Partner with a local quilt guild.
- Encourage your customers to watch Deb Tucker's *Tips and Tricks* videos through Facebook and YouTube for suggestions on how quilters can use their stash of fabric and batting. Additional tips may be about using simple patterns or ways for quilters to expand their skills.
- Submit information and photos of your sewing days to Diane Marvin at MarvinDM180@gmail.com With your permission, she will share your information with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, S180D, and TU for posting to their social media accounts. This will help recognize your contributions and allow others to learn about you.

What type of records do I have to submit?

- The only record keeping Sleep in Heavenly Peace is asking for is the total number of hours people are donating to the organization. That includes long arming services and binding services. This information can be submitted to Diane Marvin at MarvinDM180@gmail.com for your convenience.
- We encourage you to keep your own records so that you can watch your progress and accomplishments. Feel free to use the *Tally Sheets for Participants* as well as *Quilt Collections* pages.
- Remind your quilters that they may be able to claim their contributions as a charitable donation on their taxes.
- Whenever you drop off quilts to SHP, drop us a line to tell us how many quilts your group contributed. It's not a competition; we simply would like to keep a running tally.

Thank you for participating in the Quilts Across America. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Diane Marvin at MarvinDM180@gmail.com

With much appreciation,
Studio 180 Design
Tucker University



Sample Planning Guide

This sample planning guide is just that, a guide to help you prepare for hosting Quilts Across America events. We appreciate your support!

Quilt Requirements

- Size between 50" to 60" wide and 75" to 90" long.
- Simple quilt designs.
- Colors that appeal to kids and young adults from 2 to 17 years of age.
- No religious or holiday themed fabrics.
- Quilted, not tied.
- Machine bound is preferred.
- No buttons or glued on embellishments.
- Simple allover quilting is recommended.

Here are some general questions you will want to answer while preparing for your event. Further explanation is provided in the sections following the list.

1. What kind of event do I want to host?
2. What do I, as the host, need to provide?
3. How many participants do I want to host at a time?
4. What tasks will I have for participants who don't want to sew?
5. Will I provide lunch, snacks, beverages, etc.?
6. What staff, if any, will I need?
7. Who can I get to participate, and how would they help?
8. What do I need to do ahead of time to prepare for the event?
9. What supplies will I need for the event?
10. How will I advertise the event?
11. How will I get the quilts finished and delivered?
12. What sort of record keeping do I want to have?

What kind of event do I want to host?

- Provide direct instruction of a pattern as a class?
- Informal sew session. Have a scheduled date and time, but let people come and go as they can?
- Piece batting session. Start a collection of large scraps of batting at a shop or guild. Clean up the edges and zigzag them together to create appropriate size batting?
- Have a binding party? Celebrate the accomplishments!
- Something else?

What do I, as the host, need to provide?

- Offer patterns for sale, or provide a free pattern from Studio 180 Design or Tucker University?
- Provide block kits, fabric, and thread? Have participants bring their own supplies based on the supply list? Or request that participants bring their own pattern and supplies?
- Have sewing machines available? Can your participants bring their own machines? Would any participants like to bring additional machines for others to use?
- Provide meals? Do a potluck? Have participants bring their own meals? Make reservations for those who would like to pre-purchase a meal?

How many participants do I want to host at a time?

- Are you the only instructor? Do you have assistants to help?
- How many tables and chairs are available?
- What is the best use of the space to allow for cutting and pressing areas?
- Is there space for people to eat if a meal is included in the event?

What tasks will I have for participants who don't want to sew?

- Can they lay out blocks to prepare for assembly?
- Can they carry blocks to and from quilters for sewing rows together?
- Do you need a receptionist for the sign-in or welcome table or to keep track of block kits that are going out and coming back completed.
- Do you need a "lunch lady" to handle the food set up?
- Could you have "personal pressers" who can press as the piecers continue to piece?
- Do you want a set up and tear down crew?

Will I provide lunch, snacks, beverages, etc.?

- If participants want to be included in the lunch, how do they reserve their meal?
- How do you account for dietary concerns?
- Will you be providing the paper products for a potluck situation or just in general for those who bring their meal?
- What are the kitchen facilities? Is a refrigerator available? Is there a microwave? Can you heat large amounts of food? Is there a location for serving the food?

What staff, if any, will I need?

- Instructor(s)?
- Knowledgeable assistants to change bobbins, trim units, and help with problems that arise?
- Other?

Who can I get to participate and how can they help?

- Guilds: advertising and participants
- Chamber of Commerce: advertising, financial contributions, sponsoring the lunch
- Churches: event location, advertising, participants
- Scout and 4H groups: participants
- National Honor Society Students: set up and tear down muscle, participants
- Others?

What do I need to do ahead of time to prepare for the event?

- Prepare a lesson plan if teaching.
- Make Stepouts for instruction.

What supplies will I need for the event?

- Sewing machines
- Design wall
- Stepouts
- Pattern copies
- Rotary cutters
- Cutting mats
- Rulers and trim down tools
- Irons
- First aid kit
- Kitchen supplies, paper serving items, etc.
- Other?

How will I advertise?

- Mailing list
- Flyers in a shop
- The church bulletin, if allowed
- Facebook page

How will I get the quilts finished?

- Who will provide longarm services?
- Who will provide batting? Should I start a batting collection?
- Who will do the binding?
- Do I want to include a small label on the quilt?

What sort of recordkeeping do I have to do? What might I want to keep a record of? (Sample tally sheets are available on our website.)

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace would like to keep a tally of how many hours were donated to complete quilts. You are welcome to submit a record of that to Diane Marvin at **MarvinDM180@gmail.com** whenever it is convenient for you to do so. For example, twice a year.
- How many different events will you host? How many participants?
- How many quilts were completed?

If at any time you implement an idea that works out beyond your expectations, please share the idea with Diane Marvin at **Marvindm180@gmail.com** so she can share it with others. Please include your name so that you get credit for the great idea!