

UNDER OUR WINGS[®]

PROGRAM INFORMATION

For UOW State Coordinators

UOW Coordinator
UOW@QOVF.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Mission Statement
2. Program Overview
3. Responsibilities of State UOW Coordinators
4. Mentors
5. Waiver
6. Sample Letters
7. Fundraising
8. Finding a Longarmer
9. Identifying Service Members or Veterans
10. Quilts of Valor® Foundation Quick Reference Guide
11. Sample Press Release / Photo Release
12. Posters
13. Reporting
14. Information from the Nebraska 4-H Program

Section 1: Mission Statement

“The mission of the Quilts of Valor® Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor®.”

Section 2: UOW Program Overview

Welcome, and thank you for being part of the Under Our Wings® program.

This exciting and important Quilts of Valor® Foundation (QOVF) initiative offers young people the opportunity to perform community service and introduces them to the art of quilting at the same time.

First, a little history—QOVF’s Under Our Wings® (UOW) program was launched several years ago by its creator, QOVF Board of Directors member Marianne Fons. In spite of the advantages of the program, QOVF at the time had more pressing needs—including the creation of its Policies & Procedures Manual, transition to a membership structure, website redesign, and Board of Directors recruitment.

The UOW program is now back with renewed energy, new direction, and a new focus. The program will focus on America’s youth through Girls Scouts, 4-H, 4-H Military Partnership, Future Farmers of America (FFA) and any other youth group seeking a community service project.

The UOW program will also serve clubs, fraternal organizations, veterans groups or any other entity in a community that would like to participate in a national service project.

As a UOW State Coordinator, a State Coordinator, Group Leader, or member, you will be helping QOVF, the UOW program, and most importantly, our veterans, through your participation.

Thank you for being a part of the UOW program!

Under Our Wings® Coordinator
Quilts of Valor® Foundation

Section 3: Responsibilities of State Under Our Wings® Coordinators

Job Responsibilities for Under Our Wings® State Coordinator

The UOW State Coordinator:

- Reports directly to the Under Our Wings® Coordinator (UOWC)
- Works with the UOWC to build the UOW program in her/his respective state
- Helps identify Mentors, QOV Groups, and Certified Quilt Shops that will be willing to work with youth groups
- Provide information and communication available from the UOWC to youth group leaders such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, FFA, and ROTC, church youth groups, or seniors in high school needing a community service project to graduate
- Identify, within the state, any community service groups (such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, fraternal organizations such as FOP, Elk or Moose and their Auxiliaries) and veteran's organizations (such as The American Legion, VFW, DAV, and their Auxiliary groups), that might wish to partner in a UOW program

UOW State Coordinators are expected to:

- Understand the Foundation's mission
- Be familiar with the Foundation's policies and procedures, the Foundation's website, and the duties of other staff members
- Be a member in good-standing in the Foundation
- Represent the Foundation and its mission, serving as an ambassador of the Foundation
- Use their QOVF.org email address for all Foundation related email
- Retain current staff contact information
- Keep the person they report to up to date on their area of responsibility
- Be willing to learn
- If requested by a youth group, provide the name of a Mentor, QOV Group, or Certified Quilt Shop to contact for a UOW program;
- By the 10th of each month complete the UOW report and send to the UOW Coordinator
- Keep costs to a minimum by using email and telephone calls to prospective group leaders or Mentors to discuss the UOW program
- Work with the QOVF Longarm Coordinator, and follow up with any Group Leader or Mentor to provide information, if needed, on obtaining a longarmer
- Work with the Group Leader or Mentor to set dates for award ceremonies and provide scripts for the group to use
- Report awarded quilts on the QOVF website
- Maintain a list of all Mentors, youth groups, adult groups, quilts awarded, and all UOW programs instituted in the state
- Keep an open line of communication with the UOWC

Section 4: Mentors

A Mentor is, “someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person.”

State UOW Coordinators need to help youth groups find mentors for the UOW program in their area. There are several ways to find a good Mentor, including:

- Contacting QOVF Groups in the area and asking if there is a group member that would like to Mentor a youth group
- Locating and contacting quilt guilds or sewing groups in the area
- Contacting the local Extension Office or Home Extension

Mentors work with youth group leaders to:

- Get waivers signed for youth if needed
- Set up sew days
- Establish budgets for projects
- Assist in selecting patterns for youth groups
- Assist in selecting fabrics, help youth shop for fabrics, or supply kits
- Assist in determining the number of quilts group will make

- Help source sewing machines, cutting equipment, and other supplies
- Create age-appropriate work groups with larger groups (for cutting, sewing, pressing, etc.)
- Assist in selecting recipients for QOVs by contacting State Coordinators for any pending requests and/or looking within the community for recipients
- Assist youth group leaders with setting dates for award ceremonies
- Take photos on sew days and at award ceremonies for QOVF website

Mentors are responsible to:

- Report dates of sew days to the State Coordinator
- Work with the State UOW Coordinator to secure longarming
- Get tops to longarmers
- Receive quilts back from longarmer
- Work with the group leader on scripts for award ceremonies

Section 5: Waiver

"The mission of the Quilts of Valor® Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor®."

RELEASE OF LIABILITY & HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, for and on behalf of myself and minor child* (if applicable) hereby knowingly and willingly affix my signature to this form and acknowledge that I fully understand that quilting necessarily involves the use of sewing machines, needles, fabric cutters, scissors, pins and other sharp and pointed instruments which are inherently dangerous with substantial risks of injury and I personally accept these risks. Among these risks include the risk of cuts and punctures. I certify that I am 18 years old or older, of sound and disposing mind. I agree to hold harmless all parties named or not named including, but not limited to, Quilts of Valor® Foundation and its officers, representatives, members, volunteers and property owners or lessees where quilting or any related or connected Quilts of Valor® Foundation activity takes place. I acknowledge and personally accept these risks and agree to hold all other parties harmless from any liability on behalf of myself and any child participating in any activity of the Quilts of Valor® Foundation. This release shall be binding on my heirs, assigns and representatives.

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Contact Phone Number(s): _____

Emergency Contact Information (Name, relationship, telephone number):

Date: _____

All persons under the age of 18 must obtain the signature of a parent or guardian. Check here: _____ if a parent/guardian is signing for a minor.

Name of the minor child: _____

Relationship _____ Age: _____

Note: A separate form must be signed for each child. This form must be on file prior to anyone engaging in any Quilts of Valor® Foundation activity. On behalf of the men and women who have so selflessly served our country we say "thank you" from the bottom of our hearts.

Section 6: Sample Correspondence

This Section provides you with sample correspondence that can be changed as needed and used to send to youth or adult groups and Mentors.

If you do not find what you need, please contact UOW Coordinator, at UOW@qovf.org.

Sample Letter to a Mentor:

Your Name
Address
Phone Number
Date

Ms. Jane Doe
Mentor
Anywhere, USA

Dear Ms. Doe:

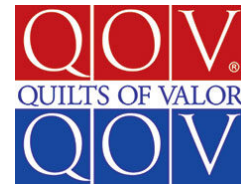
Thank you for volunteering your time and talents to mentor a youth group for their Under Our Wings® (UOW) program of the Quilts of Valor® Foundation. This is an exciting opportunity for you to help youth learn the art and skill of quilting, the joy of performing community and national service, and the honor of awarding the Quilt of Valor® to a local service member or veteran that has been touched by war.

As a Mentor your responsibilities are:

- Getting waivers signed for youth if needed
- Setting up sew days
- Working with youth group leaders on budgets for projects
- Assisting in selecting patterns for youth groups
- Assisting in selecting fabrics, helping youth shop for fabrics, or supplying kits
- Assisting in determining the number of quilts a group will make
- Helping source sewing machines, cutting equipment, other supplies
- Creating age-appropriate work groups within larger groups if needed (for cutting, sewing, pressing, etc.)
- Assisting in selecting recipients for QOVs produced
- Assisting youth group leader with date setting and award ceremony
- Taking photos on sew days and at award ceremonies for QOVF website
- Reporting dates of sew days to the State Coordinator
- Working with the State UOW Coordinator to secure longarming
- Getting tops to longarmers
- Receiving quilts back from longarmer
- Working with the group leader on scripts for award ceremonies

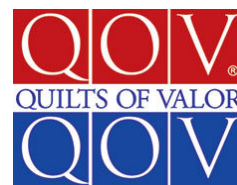
Thank you again for mentoring a youth group. I appreciate your time, talent and dedication to this program.

Best regards,



Sample Letter to Girl Scout Troops:

Your Name
Address
Phone Number
Date



Ms. Jane Doe
Girl Experience Coordinator
_____ Council
Anywhere, USA

Dear Ms. Doe:

I am the State Coordinator for Quilts of Valor® Foundation. It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Under Our Wings® (UOW) Program and partner with your council to work together to create Quilts of Valor® (QOVs) for veterans and service members. If you are unfamiliar with our program I encourage you to visit our website, www.QOVF.org, to learn about our mission.

The Under Our Wings® program gives Girl Scout troops at each level of scouting the opportunity to learn a skill—quilting—with the help of a Mentor, as well as perform community and national service by honoring local veterans and service members. They will also have the honor and privilege of awarding completed QOVs to veterans or service members in their community at award ceremonies.

To accomplish this, a Mentor (an experienced quilter) would work with the troop leader to create a UOW program. The group can work together on one top, or each scout could make her own top. The Mentor can assist with selecting fabric, providing a kit for a nominal fee, provide several simple patterns to choose from, round up sewing machines if needed, and supply tools necessary for cutting and sewing. The Mentor will guide the scouts through the steps necessary to construct the top. The Mentor will also oversee the machine quilting phase of the project and return completed QOVs to the troop for the award ceremony.

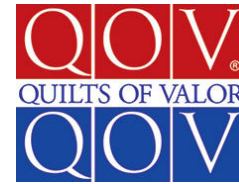
Presentation of the Quilts of Valor® will be coordinated with the troop leader and me. Award ceremonies are meaningful and touching for both the veterans/service members who receive the quilts and the girl scouts as they learn about each person's service to our country.

There are several options within the program for scouts to earn a badge, as well as the adult volunteers. I would love to discuss such a program with you and will be calling to set up a time to meet.

Best regards,

Sample Letter to a Club or Organization:

Your Name
Address
Phone Number
Date



Ms. Jane Doe
President, Group Name
Anywhere, USA

Re: Under Our Wings® Program

Dear Ms. Doe:

I would like to introduce to you a valuable opportunity for your group to participate in a unique community service project. The Quilts of Valor® Foundation (QOVF) is a national, non-profit, 501C3 organization that honors veterans. Our mission is “to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor®.” For more information on our foundation, please visit www.qovf.org.

QOVF’s Under Our Wings® program (UOW) enables your group to make one or more Quilt of Valor® (QOV) to award to a veteran or service member in your community.

A Mentor would work with your group to create the quilt or quilts your organization would award. This Mentor will assist you in any way that you need from purchasing fabric, setting up sew days, selecting patterns, helping with cutting, sewing and completion of the quilt top, finding a longarmer to quilt the quilt, identifying a veteran or service member to receive the QOV, and assisting with the award ceremony.

The Quilts of Valor® Foundation has awarded over 150,000 QOVs to veterans and service members. This is a very rewarding program and I look forward to working with you and making your Under Our Wings® program a successful one!

I am available to discuss this program with you at any time. I can be reached at _____. Thank you for considering an UOW Program.

Sincerely,

Section 7: Fundraising

Participating in an Under Our Wings® (UOW) program requires having funds to purchase fabrics or kits for quilt tops. Some groups may already have money available to them but others will need to raise funds. Every community is different, so it is important to know what works in yours. Before the group begins fundraising, it should have an idea how much money is needed for the project.

In order to raise money in the name of Quilts of Valor® Foundation, a group must be a member of the Quilts of Valor® Foundation. A youth group may join the QOVF national youth group for \$5 per member. Additionally, a youth group may apply to the QOVF Al Lind Scholarship Fund and request membership be paid for each member of the group. If the UOW group is made up of adults, one of them must be a member of a QOVF registered group. Please contact the UOW Coordinator for further information.

Here are some fundraising ideas:

- Bake sale, yard sale or craft sale
- Request from local fraternal organizations and clubs (Rotary, Lions, Jaycees, Pilot Club, etc.). Visit the group to explain the program and how funds will be used.
- Speak to a local quilt guild. Members may have fabric to donate or will help defray the costs in some way.
- Ask local fabric stores for a fabric donation or discount

Speaking to Groups

It is important to get the group you are speaking to excited about this program. The person presenting the information to the group should emphasize the community service aspect of the program as well as the pride in awarding a Quilt of Valor®. Always give the group the opportunity to ask questions.

Section 8: Longarm Quilting Services

Once a group completes a top, the next step is machine quilting (“longarming”).

Your Mentor can help you find a quilter for your top or tops. She/he may know a longarmer in the local area who would donate her/his time to quilt your top. Be sure to show your appreciation to your local longarmer!

If the group is a member of Quilts of Valor®, you may also request a longarmer at www.QOVF.org. Use the “Request a Longarmer” form available on the Quilts of Valor® web page.

Section 9: Identifying a Service Member or Veteran

Helping a Mentor or Group Leader identify a recipient is important. The Group Leader may already have a person in mind. A group that makes a quilt knowing who will receive it becomes more invested in the process.

If he/she has not identified a recipient, you will need to assist. Determine whether anyone in the group has a relative touched by war.

Another avenue is local veterans organizations. Contact the leaders of these groups and ask for nominations. Very likely, you will get a long list of names from which to choose!

Section 10: Quilts of Valor® Foundation Quick Reference Guide

The mission of Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

MAKING QUILTS OF VALOR®

Size: Recommended size: 60" × 80"
(minimum: 55" × 65"; maximum: 72" × 90")

★ ★ ★

Pattern: Use a commercial pattern or your own design. (*Avoid full size flag patterns that might resemble a casket flag.*)

★ ★ ★

Fabrics: Use quality, adult-appropriate, 100% cotton, "quilt weight" fabrics. Avoid juvenile prints. Avoid branch-specific (Army, Navy, etc.) prints unless the recipient is known. A Quilt of Valor does not have to be red, white, and blue, but patriotic colors are most popular with both male and female recipients.

★ ★ ★

Workmanship: Do your best. One of our core values is promoting excellence.

★ ★ ★

Backing: Use quality, 100% cotton; backings provided to volunteer longarmers must be 4" larger than quilt top on all sides (8" wider in width and 8" longer in length). Wide commercial backings sold at quilt and fabric stores are acceptable. Square up, press, and fold backing neatly before providing to quilter.

★ ★ ★

Batting: Use quality, low loft batting such as cotton, cotton blends, polyester, and polyester blends.

★ ★ ★

Binding: Double ("French fold") is recommended for durability. Miter corners. Turn by hand or stitch neatly by machine.

Label: The label must state quilt is a Quilt of Valor in order to be awarded as a Quilt of Valor and recorded as such. Make your own label or purchase at quilt shop or online. Use permanent fabric pen when personalizing.

Include name of recipient (first and last name may be included), names of top maker, quilter, and binder (first and last names may be included) city and state of residence if desired, date and location of award. Include washing instructions (cold water, mild detergent, "color catcher," dry low). Religious or political messages may not be included.

★ ★ ★

Pre-Laundering: Wash quilt once completed so it is soft and so that any potential fabric dye bleeding issues are resolved. Use cold water, mild detergent, and unscented products. A "color catcher" such as marketed by Tide® will capture fabric dyes in washer.

★ ★ ★

Presentation Case: Presentation case (a pillow case made in matching fabrics) is optional. In the early days of Quilts of Valor, many were sent to hospitals, and presentation cases were required.

★ ★ ★

Note or letter: A thank you note, card, or letter to the recipient may be included. A journal with information about how the quilt was made, maker's thoughts, etc. may be included.

Section 10: Quilts of Valor® Foundation Quick Reference Guide

The mission of Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

AWARDING QUILTS OF VALOR®

An award ceremony, no matter how brief, may be as meaningful to the recipient as the QOV itself, so take time to prepare. A written script is helpful. Invite recipient's family members and friends if appropriate. Dress appropriately. Make sure QOVF is well represented.

An ideal ceremony has five parts:

1) Opening 2) Information about Quilts of Valor Foundation 3) What a Quilt of Valor means 4) Information about the awardee 5) Closing statement. Each part can be as brief or as lengthy as the situation warrants.



Opening: Introduce yourself, including your title or role (QOVF volunteer, member, executive staff member). *Sample opening:* Thank you for inviting me here today. I'm Susan Smith, and I represent Quilts of Valor members and volunteers all over the country.



Information about QOVF: Accurately share our foundation's history, mission, core values, and number of QOVs awarded to date. *Sample wording:* In 2003, a quilter named Catherine Roberts started the movement that became Quilts of Valor when her son was deployed in Iraq. Since that time, over _____ Quilts of Valor have been awarded. Our mission is to honor service members and veterans who have been touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.



What a Quilt of Valor means: A Quilt of Valor is a formal expression of appreciation from a grateful nation. *Sample wording:* This quilt

is an expression of gratitude meant to thank and comfort you. We honor you for leaving all you hold dear to serve, whether in time of crisis or in time of peace. This Quilt of Valor unequivocally says thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation.



Information about the awardee(s): Ask the awardee to stand or come forward. If possible, include a paragraph about his/her service, years served, branch, location of service, etc.

Sample wording: Fred entered the US Army January 23, 1943, and was trained at gunnery school in Laredo, Texas. During his service, he flew fifty B-17 bombing missions. Fred was awarded the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters. He was discharged August 29, 1945. Once home, his career was in radio and TV.



Closing statement: The foundation's tradition is to award the QOV by wrapping the awardee in his/her quilt and offering a hug, but a handshake works, too. You can also present an award certificate. End the ceremony with expressions of gratitude and thank all for attending. *Sample wording:* On behalf of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, Fred, Welcome Home, and thank you for allowing us to recognize you. Thank you everyone, for being here today.



Cautions: Never ask for donations at an award ceremony. Bring business cards with you so anyone with questions can contact you. Be prepared to give your written script to the awardee or a member of the press. Make sure your contact information is on it.

Section 11: Sample Press Release / Photo Release

Ask the Group Leader or Mentor to invite members of the local press to the award ceremony. If no one is there to cover the event, take photographs on your own. Get shots of the recipient(s) and the group of quilt makers. Submit a story to the local paper and post photos on Facebook and other social

media. Getting the word out helps bring the mission of Quilts of Valor® before the eyes of the community. Below is a sample press release. Be sure to submit photos with your story. If no one is present from the local press, please be prepared to take photographs to submit to the local media.



[Name of group] on *[date of ceremony]* held an award ceremony honoring *[name of recipient]* for his/her/their service to our country by awarding a Quilt of Valor®.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor® Foundation (QOVF) is, “to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” To date QOVF has awarded more than *[number of quilts awarded is available at www.QOVF.org]*.

[Name of group] participated in QOVF’s Under Our Wings Program. The Under Our Wings® Program promotes the importance of community and national service by helping youth groups create and present Quilts of Valor®. Any group that would like to participate in an Under Our Wings® program, please contact *[name of contact]* for further information.

Section 11: PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOS RELEASE FORM _____

(event)

I grant Quilts of Valor® Foundation the right to take photographs and/or video of me and my property in connection with the above-identified event. I authorize Quilts of Valor® Foundation to copy, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

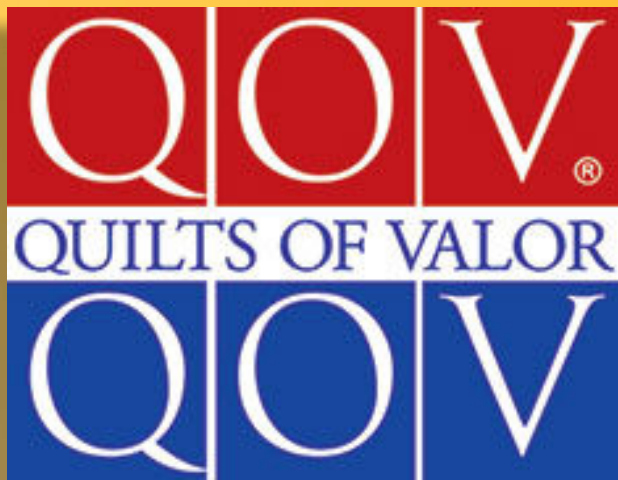
I agree that the Quilts of Valor® Foundation may use such photographs/video of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including, for example, such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and web-related content.

I have read and understand the above:

Event	Date	Printed Name	Signature

Section 12: Posters for Use

Pages 14 and 15 contain two posters that can be used to promote the UOW Program.



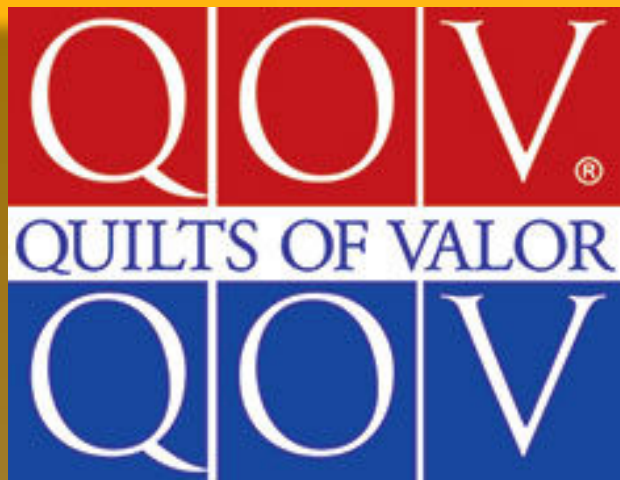
Under Our Wings®

To any service member touched by war a Quilt of Valor® says: "Someone cares. Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor."

Guided by experienced *Under Our Wings®* mentors, beginning quilters will make their own Quilts of Valor® for service members in their own communities.

Contact:





Under Our Wings[®]

To any service member touched by war a Quilt of Valor[®] says: "Someone cares. Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor."

Guided by experienced *Under Our Wings[®]* mentors, beginning quilters will make their own Quilts of Valor[®] for service members in their own communities.

Contact:



Section 13: Reporting

As a State Under Our Wings® Coordinator you must submit a monthly report to the Under Our Wings® Coordinator. The following report is to be completed and sent to the UOW Coordinator by the 10th day of each month.

Reporting Form for UOW State Coordinators

Name _____ State _____

Date of Report _____ Total Number of UOW Programs _____

List Cities	Group Name	Mentor	Date of Award Ceremony	Name of Recipient	Date Reported

(NOTE: Add boxes as needed to complete report)

Number of inquiries about having a UOW Program _____

Please tell me about any problems and how you resolved them: _____

Please list any suggestions you have to improve our program: _____

This report must be submitted to UOW@qovf.org by the 10th day of each month.

Section 14: Information from the Nebraska 4-H Program

The Nebraska 4-H program has operated a successful Under Our Wings® program for several years. This section offers information from that program's coordinator, Phyllis Schoenholt. Many thanks to Phyllis for her time, talent and willingness to help promote and make successful the Under Our Wings® program.

Although the following information is about 4-H groups in Nebraska, it is useful for any organization.

4-H Quilts of Valor Challenge

Civic Engagement and community service are a big part of 4-H where youth and adult volunteers do a tremendous amount of benefit in their communities and beyond. 2011 was the first year for the Nebraska 4-H Quilts of Valor® Challenge, where youth were charged to make quilts for U.S. soldiers/veterans "touched by war."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension challenged 4-H youth to create Quilts of Valor—resulting in over 40 quilts by 4-H youth and volunteers in that first year. Since the beginning of the state-wide 4-H effort, 465 Nebraska quilts have been donated to Quilts of Valor® Foundation.

Following tradition, in 2016, 4-H Quilts of Valor® quilts were displayed at the Nebraska State Fair and on Saturday, September 3, a standing room only crowd attended the public presentation of quilts. Each quilt made that year was displayed to the audience. Fifty percent of the quilts were returned to the 4-Hers for awards in their community with the remaining quilts turned over to QOVF for awarding.

Nebraska 4-H QOVs have been sent many places around the world to U.S. active military and veterans. Thank you notes from Afghanistan ICU nurses state the quilts have been "proudly worn" during Purple Heart ceremonies. The video of a soldier lying under a Quilt of Valor® saluting his commanding officer went viral and can be found at [QOV Award](#).

2016 Lessons Learned from the QOV 4-H Challenge:

Developing the Challenge:

- UNL Extension Educators at the local level in several counties have a passion for 4-H youth, quilting and Quilts of Valor®—resulting in time and energy put toward the "Nebraska 4-H Quilts of Valor® Challenge." To be successful, local Extension faculty and staff must be enthused and motivated to make the youth challenge a success.

Section 14: Information from the Nebraska 4-H Program

- Nebraska Extension staff worked closely with the National Quilts of Valor® Foundation to create and organize the first-ever challenge—which grew and at this writing is in its sixth year. Numerous phone calls and phone conferences were held to develop the structure of the challenge program.

Promoting and Publicizing the 4-H QOV Challenge:

- Once the basic model was developed, mass emails through the Nebraska Extension system provided details for all county staff/faculty. For most of the state, Quilts of Valor® was new.
- Instructions, guidelines, and other information were emailed to extension offices and placed on the UNL 4-H website for staff and public view. Every attempt was made to get the Quilts of Valor® history and guidelines to staff and 4-H families.
- Phone contacts were made with the Nebraska State Quilt Guild (NSQG) to ask for endorsement, resulting in support across Nebraska and from local quilt guilds.
- Promotion was also sent to Nebraska's independent quilt shops.
- Newspaper coverage was promoted through the University Media Department.
- Local Extension staff worked with local media (TV, newspapers, radio, etc.) to promote the program and get publicity out about local workshops and accomplishments.
- Multiple emails were sent to Extension staff throughout the year with promotional pieces offered.
- Local Extension staff gave programs to local Rotaries, Chambers of Commerce, quilt guilds, American Legion Posts, etc. Individuals and or organizations donated fabric and/or monetary gifts to purchase fabric. Highly successful programs were those that included 4-H youth helping with presentations at community organization meetings. Monetary donations to the local program often resulted.
- Individuals donated long-arm quilting—or quilted at a reduced cost for 4-H youth.
- Adults volunteered to help youngsters make quilts.

Fundraising:

- In some cases, individual 4-Hers/families purchased fabric and paid for the expenses of quilts constructed and quilting.
- As a result of publicity and promotion, organizations such as quilt guilds, Rotary, American Legion etc. donated fabric and/or funds to cover the costs of a quilt.
- Quilt makers in the community donated fabric to be made into QOVs.
- Local businesses donated toward the project.
- Youth worked for monetary donations (ex. a local Dairy Queen with 4-H youth serving evening meals on a hot summer evening resulted in a percentage of the profits given to 4-Hers for the county QOV effort.
- Local Extension staff in some cases wrote grants to local electrical cooperatives. Successful grants awarded were up to \$1000 donation. In several counties, local 4-H Councils paid for the batting and fabric backing fabric to promote the QOV effort.

Section 14: Information from the Nebraska 4-H Program

Creating Quilts:

Extension Staff created statewide guidelines for the challenge program. Guidelines from the national Quilts of Valor® website were included in the Nebraska 4-H guidelines (which also included some history so youth/families would understand the QOV mission). It was stressed that QOVs honor military personnel who protect our freedoms, so the best quality workmanship and materials should be used.

4-H Quilts of Valor were made by:

- Individual 4-H members; each made one quilt or more at home.
- Teams of youth working together to make blocks for one quilt in a 4-H workshop setting with adult supervision/guidance.
- 4-H adult volunteers made quilts at home and donated toward the effort (those are not judged at fairs, but accepted)
- Multi-generational family members working together to make quilt(s)

Documentation of the Quilts of Valor Project:

- 4-Hers/Volunteers took digital pictures of youth working on quilts.
- Extension staff collected digital pictures through emails and used a free computer software program to create visual documentation that can be shown at a variety of events including at county/state fairs.
- National QOV also asked to see pictorial/video documentation of youth creating quilts and the finished product.
- TV stations and newspapers interviewed youth about their projects which were published/aired.

County/State Fair Judging & QOV Display:

- Local Extension staff developed and then through the years, followed State Fair guidelines to be able to enter the quilts in the county & State Fair.
- In Nebraska, Quilts of Valor® were entered at county/state fairs within the guidelines of Nebraska 4-H projects.