Kids Quilt Camp Guidelines Expanded

GOAL: Inspire the next generation of quilters

OBJECTIVE: Each participant will complete a quilt project by the conclusion of the camp experience

PREPARATION:

1. Obtain commitment from at minimum of 5-6 members that assistance will be provided in developing the camp and conducting the actual camp.
   1. One person should be designated leader.
   2. Ratio of camper to instructor should be one to one.
2. Schedule and hold planning sessions - preferable 4-5 months prior to camp being held.
   1. Planning sessions should be 60-90 minutes in length
   2. Subcommittee sessions recommended
   3. It is expected the chapter knows what will work in their community.
3. Camp session recommendation: 2 or 3 sessions that are 4-5 hours per session
4. Identify source of potential participants: Consider age (9 to 12 years – 4th 5th, and 6th grade) and where they are: School, Church groups, Scouts etc.
5. Select dates and time for camp: Could be in summer, shortly after school term ends, weekends or weekdays. At this time AQG recommends that camp should be “free” to campers or charge a very small fee to ensure attendance ($5-$10).
6. Select location: Could be where chapter normally meets; could be in a community location. Should be in a well-known and trusted location
   1. Ensure enough electricity.
   2. Obtain extension cords if needed.
7. Campers’ Requirements
   1. Decide on minimum and maximum age to attend.
   2. Determine if campers will be required to bring their own sewing machine or if chapter is willing to provide machines. If machines will be provided, it is recommended to use machines with a speed control. Note: There should be no expectation that a camper will have access to a sewing machine and if they do, that it runs well and the camper knows how to use it. Contingency planning for a sewing machines is STRONGLY recommended.
   3. Create list of what each camper should bring to camp in a basic “sewing tools kit”, such as scissors, pins, seam rippers, machine needles, etc.
   4. Decide what chapter will provide for tools, i.e., thread, rotary cutter, sewing machine oil, cutting mat, iron, ironing board, etc.
   5. Decide how registration will occur.
8. Announce camp
   1. Develop and create fliers based on date, location and requirements.
   2. Create newspaper article.
   3. Create AQG newsletter article
   4. Disseminate information as widely as possible.
   5. Minimum time before camp to distribute information should be 4 weeks.
9. Confirm registration/attendance
   1. Find age/height of attendees
   2. Decide if “pedal risers” for sewing machines (foot stools) needed
      1. Obtain as needed
   3. Send email/text to each registrant confirming registration.
      1. Upon receipt of registration
      2. One week before camp.
      3. Provide information on how to cancel.
10. Food/Beverage
    1. Confirm the campers know they are to provide their own lunch.
    2. Provide water and/or snacks for campers.
       1. Confirm if there are any allergies, if so, accommodate allergy
11. Create Sew Kits.
    1. Chapter provides kits that campers can select from. Based on pattern
    2. Obtain fabric,. Select age appropriate focus fabric.
    3. Kits should be cut out and ready to go. Great way to use up novelty fabric
12. Create name tags for each camper
13. Create “Fun Bags” for campers. (Dollar Store items such as hand sanitizer, lip balm, small or sewing supplies such as seam ripper, zipper bag etc)

CAMP:

1. Instructors should arrive 30 minutes before campers to ensure all is in place
2. Ensure any extension cords in use are secured to floor to avoid possible tripping
3. Camper Arrival
   1. Greet each camper as they arrive
   2. Distribute name tags
   3. Show where lunches should be stowed.
   4. Show where restroom facilities are located.
   5. Review sewing safety rules (separate document)
   6. Introduce all the instructors and their names.
4. SEWING MACHINE SETUP
   1. Assign instructor to camper
   2. Instructor to determine assigned camper’s level of quilting knowledge.
      1. Note: additional time maybe required to instruct camper on how to use a sewing machine. Each instructor should be prepared to teach very basic sewing skills.
   3. Setup sewing machine and ensure it works.
      1. Have new needles available.
      2. Have backup sewing machines if possible.
5. Allow Campers to select their kit. All campers should use the same pattern. (Separate document)
6. Sew and have fun!
7. Take lots of pictures and send to the AQG Newsletter for publishing.
8. Send recommended updates of document to Education team.
9. Plan for the next one.
10. Work with the campers to show their finished project in a youth exhibit at AQG or local quilt show.