

Red Clay Hills Barn Quilt Trail

Create your own quilt block

You may join the Red Clay Hills Barn Quilt Trail if you create a block that will be located in the Neshoba County and surrounding area. There are several construction options available to you:

- Paint a design on 3/4 " weather-worthy board and hang the block on the outside of any structure such as your barn, home, business or fence.
- Paint the design directly on the surface of one of these structures like a mural. Hang your block on a side, gable, or eave of your structure. Smaller painted quilts can be placed on separate posts in the yard.

Step 1: Design your block

Design your block with simple graph paper. You may draw a patchwork of triangles, and squares to create your own special design. You may also Google Quilt trails and many patterns will appear. Quilt books and magazines are a great source for patterns as well.

Block patterns will be approved by the committee. You are urged to use a pattern that has been in your family for years or one that may have been used for generations in the surrounding area. Your own special design could represent your family, its skills or its hobbies, through the geometric patterns used. Business designs may represent the businesses' product, but may not contain a logo.

IMPORTANT SPECS TO REMEMBER WHEN YOU DESIGN YOUR BLOCK

- **NO WORDS OR LOGOS ARE ALLOWED**
- **BLOCKS MUST BE SQUARE**
- **BLOCKS MUST BE 2'X2' OR LARGER**

Barn quilts should be at least 4'x 4' (1/2 plywood sheet) or 8'x 8' (two full plywood sheets) if they are to be viewed from a distance.

DESIGN MUST "READ" AS A QUILT WITH EMPHASIS ON A PATCHWORK DESIGN. PATTERNS MUST BE GEOMETRIC, EMPHASIZING THESE SHAPES. APPLIQUE' IDEAS ARE ACCEPTABLE.

STEP 2: COLOR YOUR PATTERN

Choose your favorite colors and color your design using colored pencils, crayons, markers, etc. You may also create your design in “Paint” on your computer and change the colors until you get what you want.

STEP 3: REGISTER WITH THE RED CLAY HILLS BARN QUILT ASSOCIATION.

STOP HERE AND REGISTER YOUR BLOCK WITH THE RED CLAY HILLS BARN QUILT ASSOCIATION. ONLY THOSE BARN QUILTS REGISTERED WITH RED CLAY HILLS BARN QUILT ASSOCIATION WILL BE INCLUDED IN DOCUMENTATION ABOUT THE TRAIL. THIS WILL INCLUDE BROCHURES, MAP GUIDES, FLYERS, WEBSITES, ETC. The association will meet to approve your design and get in touch with you as soon as possible.

STEP 4: BUY MATERIALS

If you are painting a quilt block to hang outside, you’ll need these (suggested) materials.

- ¾ board (MDO or plywood)
- Treated 2”x 2” or 2”x 4” for backing frame
- Primer such as Kilz or ABC Bullseye
- Several coats of a good exterior latex paint (1/4 of a quart is plenty per color) (Do not buy the “Testers” since the pigment is not weather worthy). A sealer is not recommended as many of them turn yellow with age.
- Sponge brushes or any good paint brush
- Painters tape
- Spackle for filling in seams

STEP 5: ATTACH FRAME

Attach 2 x2 or 2 x 4 frame to back of board. (You don’t really have to have a frame behind the quilt block, but it is more durable and more attractive.) A backing may not be needed if you are able to screw the block directly to a solid structure. Or the block may be painted directly on the structure.

STEP 6: PRIME THE BOARD

Spackling is optional, but it does discourage critters from nesting in the cracks.

Prime the entire board front and back. This helps your board last longer and it gives you a white surface on which to draw your design. Several coats are recommended.

STEP 7: DRAW THE DESIGN

It is wise to use a long straight edge and exact dimensions, so that your design comes out looking just like a patchwork quilt. A grid may be used to transfer your pattern or an overhead projector.

STEP 8: PAINT THE DESIGN

You may tape off the lines with painter tape or freehand the paint. Tape does not work well with curves. If you tape off your pattern, paint the color that is under the tape first before putting on the desired color. If paint “leaks” under the tape, it will be the under tape color. Taping takes longer because you must wait for the paint to dry before painting another color

Free painting is much faster, as you can paint all of the colors without waiting for colors to dry.

Two coats of exterior paint are usually enough. Paint with primer is more expensive, but requires fewer coats, especially pure colors, such as red or orange.

STEP 8: INSTALLATION

The block should be visible from both directions, above parked cars, bushes, or other obstructions.

If you plan to screw the block directly to the structure, use 6” masonry bolts and try to reach a stud in the wall. This works better with blocks without a frame on the back.

If the block has a 2”x 2” or 2”x 4” frame, you might consider hanging with a chain or a French cleat.

MOUNTING ON A POST

Some owners prefer to mount their blocks onto 4" x 4" treated posts so the block can be erected in the yard where it is more visible.

CONSIDER LIGHTING

Consider mounting a light wired to a sensor that automatically turns on at dusk and off at daybreak.

LAST STEP: TAKE A PICTURE

Congratulations!! Contact the RED CLAY HILLS BARN QUILT ASSOCIATION and let them know your block is installed and send them the picture to be included on the media materials.

For more information, please contact:

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