

## Things to Know Before the Interview

1. The tape-recorded interview is approximately 45 minutes long.
2. You are asked to bring ONE quilt or quilted item that is significant to you and preferably also made by you. We call this your “touchstone object.”
3. You will be asked to fill out and sign the following:
  - A permission/release form
  - A participant and quilt information form that includes the date your quilt was made, title, where it was made, and dimensions
  - A “Quick Question” form
4. You will be photographed with your quilt after the interview, and the photograph will be posted along with your interview. A detail shot of your quilt also will be taken.
5. A sampling of the interview questions is available in the Manual.

*Enjoy some of the already completed interviews by logging onto:*

[www.centerforthequilt.org](http://www.centerforthequilt.org)

*The official website for  
The Alliance for American Quilts and  
Quilters’ S.O.S. – Save Our Stories.*

## During the Interview

1. Your interviewer will make a brief announcement before the interview begins.
2. The main goal of your interviewer is to elicit information from you that allows us to see the world through your eyes, so your interviewer should do very little talking.
3. Relax and talk as much as you want. More is better!
4. You may or may not have a scribe during your interview. The scribe’s job is simply to take notes to make the transcription process easier. The scribe may ask you to clarify some things after the interview.
5. Your interviewer will make a brief closing announcement at the end of the interview.

## The Transcription Process

1. The tape of your interview is copied and mailed to a transcriber.
2. Transcribing an interview can take anywhere from 6-10 hours, depending on the skill of the transcriber and the quality of the tape.
3. However, because most of our transcribers are busy volunteers, it can take up to three months for your tape to be transcribed and sent to you for editing. We do our best to get it to you quickly.

## When the Transcription is Complete

1. Two copies of the transcription (one for your records and the other to return) and a final permission letter will be mailed to you. At your request, we also can send you a copy electronically.
2. We ask that you review and return your corrected transcription as soon as you can.
3. If you will be delayed, please let your contact person know.
4. Please do not rewrite your interview. Check the transcript for factual accuracy - fill in missing information like last names, correct spellings, etc.
5. After the corrected transcription and final permission letter are sent to Karen Musgrave, she will check the transcript one more time for correct formatting before posting it to the website.
6. Once your interview is posted, you will be notified by e-mail, postcard, or telephone.
7. Finally, all your interview materials will be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Thank you for participating in Quilters' S.O.S. – Save Our Stories (Q.S.O.S.), a project of The Alliance for American Quilts.

Q.S.O.S. is the largest grassroots oral history preservation effort of its kind. Our goal is to create a broadly-accessible body of information about quiltmakers and quilting, and to make it available through the Internet. Since 1993, The Alliance for American Quilts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization, has worked to ensure that this nation's quilt heritage is preserved, documented, and widely shared.

To learn more about The Alliance for American Quilts and Quilters' S.O.S. – Save Our Stories, log onto:

**[www.centerforthequilt.org](http://www.centerforthequilt.org)**

You are encouraged to consult the Q.S.O.S. Manual for further information on the project and visit the website to read interviews:

**<http://centerforthequilt.org/qsos/>**

## Important Contact Information

Karen Musgrave  
Q.S.O.S. Chair  
[qsos@quiltalliance.org](mailto:qsos@quiltalliance.org) or  
630.579.1024

## Build the Vision with Us!

Share the vision of The Alliance for American Quilts and ensure that this nation's quilt heritage is preserved, documented, and shared, by joining us as a member. Your support will ensure that another quiltmaker's story is preserved for generations to come. For more information on our membership program, visit:

**[www.centerforthequilt.org/membership/](http://www.centerforthequilt.org/membership/)**

Donations also are welcomed.  
Mail checks to:

The Alliance for American Quilts  
125 S. Lexington Ave., Suite 101  
Asheville, NC 28801

Contact us at 828.251.7073 or  
[admin@quiltalliance.org](mailto:admin@quiltalliance.org).

# Interview Guide



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a project of  
**The Alliance for American Quilts**