Kentucky Quilt Trail Facilitator’s Guide

Plan Ahead:

2. Choose and insert pictures from tour of quilts to insert in the overall PowerPoint to customize your lesson and/or review the Community Scholars’ interviews to share.
3. Obtain a copy of the book, Kentucky Quilt Trail: Views and Voices, for background information and as a display/interest approach.
4. Decide whether to share Part 1, Part 2, or both.
5. Copy Leaflet for members.

Items Needed on Day of Training:

1. LCD projector/laptop
2. Power point
3. Copies of leaflet for members and facilitator’s guide for leaders
4. Any display materials to add interest and focal point (i.e. book, quilt block patterns, pictures, etc.)

Outline:

**Part 1. Past, Present, and Future of Kentucky Quilt Trail**

The Kentucky Arts Council has provided the information for the lesson on Kentucky Quilt Trails. Through the Arts Council’s leadership the Quilt Trail in the Commonwealth has continued to expand.

The Quilt Trail project began in Adams County, Ohio when Donna Sue Groves, field representative for the Ohio Arts Council, decided to paint an 8’ x 8’ quilt square on her barn in honor of her mother, a lifetime quilter. The Adams County arts council picked up on the idea and they painted 20 squares in their county and developed a driving tour, which has increased tourism.
It has provided an added economic impact in two ways:

- Tourists are attracted to small businesses near the quilt trail; and
- Many local artisans have developed quilt-related products to sell.

In Kentucky, the project was spearheaded by Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) coordinators, working in collaboration with community groups and often with county Extension Agents. Some RC & D offices in eastern Kentucky initially provided $500 per county for start up expenses.

The Quilt Trail project relies on local volunteers to spearhead the design and development of the quilt square on a community landmark. Many people and organizations have supported the Trail development.

Local businesses have provided support through donations of time, labor, supplies and services to design and hang the quilts.

Many of the quilt patterns, the barns, and the buildings that are a part of the Kentucky Quilt Trail have fascinating stories behind them, and many of these stories have been documented by Community Scholars. Community Scholars are graduates of a six-day training program sponsored by the Kentucky Folklife Program at different locations around the state. Participants learn to use the tools of the folklorist to identify and document traditions in their own communities through oral history interviews and documentary photography.
NOTE: At this point insert other PowerPoint pictures to share with the participants from the Tour of Kentucky Quilt Trail PowerPoint and/or share the Community Scholars stories, Appendix 1.

There are currently over 100 painted quilt squares on barns, floodwalls, and other buildings in eastern Kentucky. Twenty counties in eastern Kentucky are participating and Paducah is developing a trail in the western part of the state.

End of Part 1

**Part 2. Designing and Implementing a Kentucky Quilt Trail Project**

**Getting Started**

Defining a Common Purpose

What is your purpose(s) in developing a quilt trail in your community?

- To honor the quilting tradition
- To honor farming traditions
- To beautify the community
- To promote cultural heritage tourism
- To promote quilt-related crafts
- Other

The first step in beginning a Kentucky Quilt Trail Project is defining a common purpose. (See Appendix 2)

**Purpose Statement**

Your purpose(s) in developing the trail will inform decisions about what patterns to include, where to place them, and what structures to include, so it is important to reach a consensus about your purpose(s) early in the process. (See Appendix 3)

**Defining Your Route to Match Your Purpose – Knox County**

- Primary route target—along highways 23E and 229. Secondary route target—along highways that connect to other counties
- Preferably about 3 miles apart
- Sites that are highly visible from the road (not in a curve or blocked by trees or other structures) and have a pull-off when possible to allow for photos
- Small business that have historical significance, artist studios/shops, farm stands, agritourism destinations or sites close to above type shops

The primary objective of the Clothesline of Quilts Trail in Appalachia is to promote tourism in rural areas. Increasing tourism will give added value to the local economy through the increase sales of local arts and crafts, and locally grown produce. (See Appendix 4)
The pattern choices are limitless so it is important to select patterns that relate to your project purpose. In Knox County the decision has been made to use geometric or pieced patterns in their community. (See Appendix 5)

Several communities have developed a nomination form and process to encourage the community to get involved in the project. A selection committee reviews the nominations and makes decisions about quilt patterns to be painted. (See Appendix 7)

The key to a successful project is to involve the community in the planning and hanging of the Quilt Trail project. Celebrating a community Quilt hanging helps to publicize the trail activity in the community and serves to spread the word throughout the community of the purpose of the project.

Several communities have successfully involved local schools in the project to encourage heritage and arts education and youth participation in the project.

Several issues arise in the community regarding the sustainability of the project. BEFORE a quilt is hung, the project committee should have developed a plan for maintaining the quilt squares due to potential weather damage.
Each community has handled this differently. To learn from those communities with experience in developing a Kentucky Quilt Trail project join the yahoo group to access resources and ask questions.

Make every effort to publicize the project to develop community ownership in designing the quilt squares and to encourage tourists to visit to view the quilt blocks.

Careful planning is necessary to paint the blocks correctly and for optimum weathering of the quilt block. (See Appendix 6)
Mounting the quilt square requires planning depending upon the building where it will be hung. Some communities have chosen to mount the quilts free-standing like a sign rather than on a building.

Plan early to pinpoint the location of your quilt square with GPS coordinates. Your local government may have people on staff that has the equipment to track the coordinates for you.

Several communities have developed a web presence to publicize their project.

The Kentucky Arts Council has a coordinated page to publicize and link all websites for easy access for interested tourists.