

# Quilters' S.O.S. - Save Our Stories

## Guide for Interviewees



Thank you for participating in Quilters' S.O.S. - Save Our Stories (QSOS), a project of Quilt Alliance! QSOS is the largest grassroots oral history preservation effort of its kind. Our goal is to eliminate the "anonymous quiltmaker" by recording, collecting, preserving, and sharing living quiltmakers' stories. Quilt Alliance, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization since 1993, wants to ensure that this nation's quilt heritage is preserved, documented and widely shared.

To learn more about Quilt Alliance and Quilters' S.O.S. - Save Our Stories log onto <http://www.allianceforamericanquilts.org/qsos/>

### **Things to Know Before the Interview**

1. The recorded interview is often about 45 minutes long.
2. You are asked to bring ONE quilt or quilt-related item that is significant to you and preferably also made by you. We call this a "touchstone object."
3. A sampling of the interview questions is available in the QSOS manual found on the Quilt Alliance website.

### **During the Interview**

1. Your interviewer will make a brief announcement just before the interview begins.
2. Your interviewer's main goal is to elicit information from you that allows us to see the world through your eyes and in your own words, so your interviewer will do very little talking.
3. Relax and talk as much as you want! Everything you have to say is interesting, relevant and valid.

### **After the Interview**

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, or your interviewer may email you an electronic file.
2. When reviewing your transcript, just check for facts; fill in missing information like the spelling of names and places. Please do not rewrite your interview. Remember, we often don't finish our sentences and rephrase what we are trying to say.
5. Once you have returned the corrected transcription and final permission letter to your contact person, it will be sent to the Quilt Alliance for posting. When your interview is posted to the website, you will be notified by email or postcard. Your interview and all related materials will be archived at the Library of Congress at the American Folklife Center.

### **Important Contact Information**

QSOS staff is currently led by Emma Parker, QSOS Project Manager and Amy Milne, Quilt Alliance executive director. Contact us: [qsos@quiltalliance.org](mailto:qsos@quiltalliance.org), (828) 251-7073

### **Build the Vision with Us!**

If you share the vision of Quilt Alliance and want to ensure that this nation's quilt heritage is preserved, documented and widely shared, please consider making a gift of support. Join Quilt Alliance as a member or make a gift at [www.quiltalliance.org](http://www.quiltalliance.org).

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