



Call To Action: The NorthStar Resistance Quilts (traditional patchwork style)

(3-4 minutes)

The NorthStar Resistance Quilts

NorthStar Resistance is a collaborative patchwork quilt project built from **Minnesota Star** blocks contributed by makers across communities. Each block follows the same underlying structure. Together, they form fields of orientation.

The Minnesota state motto is ***L'Etoile du Nord***, meaning *The Star of the North*. Long used as a point of navigation, the North Star, or ***Polaris***, marks direction when other bearings fall away. This project draws on that symbolism. The star here is not merely decorative. It is a device for locating oneself in relation to others.

Making a quilt block is a small, repeatable act of resistance. Assembled together, those acts accumulate into something larger than any individual square.

Within this shared structure, color carries meaning. NorthStar Resistance consists of two distinct quilts built from the same Minnesota Star block.

While the geometry remains constant, the placement of color changes the emphasis and intent of the work.

One quilt centers a rainbow star set within a white field. The other centers a white star set within a blue field. These color placements are deliberate and are not interchangeable. Each quilt will be assembled separately.

Both quilts rely on repetition and accumulation. Individual blocks retain their differences in fabric and hand, yet alignment within a shared structure creates coherence. Meaning emerges through adjacency. No single star carries the whole. Orientation is established collectively.

Contributors may choose either version. Each quilt has its own page with detailed instructions, fabric requirements, and construction guidance. Please review the relevant page before cutting fabric to ensure your block aligns with the intended color placement.

Blue and Rainbow Quilt Symbolism

Although the two quilts share a common block pattern and scale, each carries a distinct part of the story.

Blue Quilt

Grief, Witness, and Accountability

Blue holds the weight of what has happened. It carries:

- Mourning
- Depth
- The coldness of state power
- The Minnesota winter
- The gravity of the operation

This quilt becomes a container for witness. It holds the quiet, heavy truth of the harm.

Rainbow Quilt

Solidarity, Care, and Collective Resistance

Rainbow holds the response to that harm. It carries:

- Community
- Diversity
- Joy as resistance
- Chosen family
- The refusal to be erased

This quilt becomes a container for collective care and the insistence on hope.

Fabric as Witness

- Each block is stitched in recognition of the thousands of people detained during Operation Metro Surge.
- The background fabrics provide structure and cohesion, allowing individual stories to be held within a shared frame.
- Participants from across Minnesota — and far beyond — are invited to take part. This includes those watching from 4,000 miles away, holding home in view even when they cannot reach it, and those with no direct connection to Minnesota who stand in solidarity, nonetheless.