



2025 Model and Photo Contest Rules and Information

Contest Rules:

1. Models must be built by and photos must be taken by the entrant.
No “proxy” entries will be allowed.
2. Models or photos should portray narrow gauge or short line subjects or related items.
3. A model or photograph which has won first place or best of show at a previous narrow gauge convention may not be entered in the same category.
4. A model may not be elevated above table height on a stand or other device to give it more prominence over its peers.
5. A model may be on a base but the base may not extend more than one inch past the edge of the model. If more, it will be considered a diorama.
6. If there is ANY scenery material on the base or around a model it will be classified as a diorama.
7. A Model can be entered in only one category (E.G. No Structure/Animation).
8. Any type of model may be entered in the Animation category
(most are expected to be dioramas or similar displays).
9. For safety, entries in the Animation category cannot be powered directly by 110 VAC.
Electric power is not guaranteed.
10. If sound is included, the sound should be activated on a momentary or time-limited basis (not continuous), and no more than ten 10 seconds.
11. Photos must be mounted on stiff mounting material or matted . The photo must be at least 5” X 7” and no larger than 12” X 16” mounted or matted.
Framed photos will be not be allowed.
12. Digitally and/or computer-enhanced photos may be entered in all categories.
13. Display only entries will be accepted on a space available basis only.
14. If disputes arise about placement of a model or photo in a category the decision of the contest room representative will be final.

Judging:

By popular vote.

Only ballots provided in registration packets will be allowed.

Additional Information:

- Enter your models and photographs Wednesday afternoon and evening.
- Pick up your models and photographs on Saturday morning after 9:00 AM except in cases of emergency. Upon retrieval, all models must be signed for by the original entrant or his/her representative with written authorization.
- Module owners may register an individual module in the model contest. You will be given a 3" x 5" placard with your entry # which should be fixed to the center fascia of your module
Due to space limitations, modules will not be displayed in the contest room. Standalone modules, not part a larger group, will be displayed the lobby area.
- Modules differ from dioramas in that a module is designed to be part of an operating layout. Modules will be displayed in the exhibit area. Due to space concerns no modules will be allowed in the contest room.
- If you have a structure, diorama, or display larger than 2 X 4 feet please contact the model contest chairman before the convention.
- All packing containers must be removed from the contest area. Packages, bags, or purses will not be allowed in the contest room.
- The model contest room will be staffed during viewing hours and locked down during non-viewing hours.

Contest Categories:

100	STEAM MOTIVE POWER – ROD A steam powered locomotive with side rods.	1200	MODULE A single module (table) of any size with operational track that is intended to connect to other modules.
200	STEAM MOTIVE POWER – GEARED A steam powered, gear driven locomotive, e.g. Shays.	1300	MODULAR LAYOUT A series of modules connected to form a continuous display with the ability for trains to traverse the layout from module to module.
300	MOTIVE POWER – OTHER Any motorized locomotive or vehicle that runs on rail.	1400	SQUARE FOOTER Theme: “Junkyard” May be any scale and height, but no parts of structures or, scenery may extend over the 12 x 12” base. Not even a leaf.
400	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT Any item of RR related equipment not otherwise covered by category.	1500	ANIMATION If the model has sound it may not last longer than ten (10) seconds.
500	MAINTENANCE OF WAY	1600	YOUTH MODEL Under 18 (first place only)
600	FREIGHT CAR	1700	MODEL PHOTOGRAPH Black and white or color.
700	PASSENGER CAR	1800	PROTOTYPE PHOTOGRAPH Black and white or color.
800	CABOOSE		
900	LOGGING EQUIPMENT		
1000	STRUCTURE		
1100	DIORAMA A structure or collection of structures not necessarily related to one another, with scenery.		
			SPECIAL AWARDS BY MANUFACTURERS
		1900	BEST OF SHOW – PHOTOGRAPH
		2000	BEST OF SHOW - MODEL