

**Model Contest Rules
Lone Star Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association**

A. General Contest Rules

1. Any member of the NMRA, in good standing, is eligible to compete except Manufacturers and Professional Model Builders. Any commercially built (built by a Professional Model Builder) model is not eligible to be entered.
 - a. Manufacturer – Derives the majority (51% or more) of his income from producing detail parts, gearing, drives or kits for the Model Railroad consumers.
 - b. Professional Model Builder – Any member who derives the majority (51% or more) of his or her income from model building.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR (preferred) or NMRA Contest Judging form. Each entry by proxy must be authenticated by the owner/builder with a valid NMRA/LSR membership number.
3. There will be no restrictions on the number of models (doesn't include photos, see photo rules) entered by a single entrant, nor shall any entry fee be charged.
4. Unmodified, ready-to-run models are ineligible for the model contest.
5. Models will be displayed to permit the maximum inspection (based on space available), with the minimum amount of handling necessary by the judges.
6. Models that have won First (1st) place with a score of 87.5 or higher at previous Regional or National NMRA contests are ineligible.
7. Models requiring more than ten (10) square feet and/or weighing more than one hundred (100) pounds are at the discretion of the Region Contest Chairman if it will be allowed to be entered, based on available space. Please check before bringing the model.
8. The claim check from the LSR entry form must be presented to obtain the model after the contest.
9. All scales will be combined in the various categories. There will be no division of category based on the scale of the model.
10. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Contest Committee, the LSR Contest Chairman and the Judges.
11. Neither the LSR nor the Host Convention Committee can assume any responsibility in the event of loss or damage to a Model beyond the insurance carried by the NMRA and then no more than the dollar value that is shown on the LSR Entry form.
12. Judges for the model contest and photo contest will be selected by the Region Contest Chairman with the help of the Host Convention Chairman if necessary.

13. No entries will be accepted after 3PM on Friday (unless otherwise posted). This will allow the Region Contest Chairman and the Host Convention Committee time to ready the room for judging.

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14. The contest room will remain closed to viewing after 4PM Friday (unless otherwise posted) and while judging is in progress. The room will reopen Saturday during normal convention hours for viewing.

15. Once the model and any supporting material have been placed on the table by the modeler, it must be left on the table for viewing. No models are to be picked up and handled (even by the owner) in the contest room, since there is no way the Host Committee people in charge of the room know who owns the model.

16. If the model is not to be picked up for judging, using a mirror or turntable base that will allow judges to study the model bottom detail will help the scoring.

17. For the protection of the entries, no bags, purses, camera bags, or drinks will be allowed in the contest display area. You are welcome to take photos for your personal use.

18. No “*politicking*” in the contest room! If you are caught reviewing your model or downgrading other models, you will be asked to leave the room until after judging and voting is completed. This doesn’t preclude discussion of modeling techniques, etc., which are part of routine conversations in the contest room.

B. Categories

1. **Steam Locomotive** – Types of locomotives that run off of steam and are representative of steam power.

2. **Diesel Locomotive** – Types of locomotives that are representative of diesel power.

3. **Traction and Other** – Electrically powered and other types of power that don’t fit into the Steam or Diesel categories.

*Per Section E-1 of the NMRA Contest Rules – Additional Regulations, models entered in Steam Locomotives, Diesel Locomotives and Traction and Other **must be powered**. In the case of multiple hookups such as A-B diesels, at least one of the models must be powered.*

4. **Passenger Cars*** - All types of passenger revenue carrying equipment, including RDC, rail buses, observation, mail and baggage.

5. **Freight Cars*** - All types of freight revenue carrying equipment, including express reefers. Any loads or appropriate figures on or in the car will be judged with the car.

6. **Cabooses*** - All types of caboose and cabin cars, including bobbers, drovers, transfers, etc.

7. **Maintenance of Way*** - Non-revenue, Right of way and track maintenance vehicles, rail and inspection cars, railroad cranes, snow removal and other cars not considered

directly involved in railroad revenue service. Any loads or appropriate figures on or in the car will be judged with the car.

8. Structures On Line* - On Line structures are considered those to be normally owned by the railroad, stations, yard structures, bridges, etc. They also include structures having rail loading/unloading facilities on the right of way. If any scenic elements or figures are not attached in or to the building, it must be entered in display at the discretion of Contest Chairman.

9. Structures Off Line* - Off Line structures are those not needing direct rail access. If any scenic elements or figures are not attached in or to the building, it must be entered in display at the discretion of Contest Chairman.

10. Bridges & Trestles – Any type of on line or off line, bridge or trestle used by the railroad. To move trains or vehicles over railroad tracks.

11. Displays/Modules* - Models or modules which include supplemental scenery. For a model to be in the display/module category, the scenery elements are not pertinent to the function of the model or primary structure. The display can be an On Line or Off Line model or models.

12. Favorite/Complete Train – Due to the mixture of model types and motive power, this is a non-judged category. A plaque and ribbon will be awarded for the train receiving the most votes from a popular vote. Ribbons will be awarded for Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) place from the popular vote.

*To increase the points to a kit-build model, you could scratch build the extra details. Adding an interior to a passenger car or caboose adds points. For freight cars, put a load in the car if it's open. With a boxcar, leave one door open so you can see the load. Also adding a figure to a model for effect may add points.

C. Awards

1. Plaques will be given for all first place models. Ribbons will be given for First (1st), Second (2nd), and Third (3rd) place finishers. Honorable Mention Ribbons will be awarded to all models receiving a Merit Award (87.5 points) from the contest judges.

Special Awards

Most Popular – Popular vote. It will be awarded to the model receiving the most votes from the convention attendees. The Host Division shall insert ballots into all registrants' packets. Whether you enter a model in the contest or not, come and vote for your favorite. Judges scores are not taken into consideration for this award.

Best In Show – Highest scoring model, in any judged category, in the model contest that receives at least 87.5 points from the judges.

Participation Award – The contestant in the model contest who receives the greatest number of combined points (from multiple models in the model contest) from the judges. In order for a model to be considered, it must receive at least 87.5 points.

Best Kit Build Model – Highest scoring model created from a kit or a modified kit. This award doesn't need to be awarded if no model qualifies.

Architecture Award – Best example of architectural design in a prototype of freelanced Off-Line structure. This award is decided by the Region Contest Chairman, if he deems a qualified model is in the contest.

Tree Award – The best tree entry. This award is decided upon by the Regional Contest Chairman and is presented only if an outstanding tree is entered.

Youth and Teen Award – To help promote the hobby and the Region Model Contest and to include young people. Anyone in the age groups specified may enter. These awards will only be presented if a qualified entry is in the contest.

Youth – Open to all youth 12 years of age and under.

Teen – Open to all youth 13 – 17 years of age.

Novice Best of Show – Highest point scoring model (with a score of at least 87.5 points) by a modeler that has never placed with a First (1st) or Second (2nd) in any LSR (Regional level) or NMRA (National level) Contest.

Bob Clarke Award – Award is presented to the entry that best depicts Logging or Backwoods modeling. Entry can be a prototype or freelance model. This entry is chosen by the Region Contest Chairman and can be chosen from any contest model category. If no suitable model fits these criteria, the award will not be given.

Linda S. Little Award – This award will be presented to the highest scoring entry *in the Model Contest only*, submitted by a woman modeler who has not previously scored higher than 87.5 points. If there are no qualifying entries, no award will be given that year.

D. Judging Procedures

Most judging categories have aspects of both difficulty and quality. Scores go up as the modeler attempts more difficult modeling projects and methods. Scores also go up as the modeler is more successful with the chosen project and methods.

1. Judging will take place using the NMRA scoring system.
2. Judging is basically **positive** in that points are awarded for what has been done, rather than subtracting for shortcomings compared to a “theoretical” perfect model.
3. The main source of information should be the Judges Score Sheet for NMRA Model Contest. Judge what you see as well as what you read since some entrants are better modelers than writers.
4. If the entrant provides photos, plans or other documentation, look it over for prototype or model information that will help you judge the model. This is especially important in the “Conformity” area. You are to judge what the modeler has done, *not* what you feel should have been done.

5. Judge the model not the modeler. You may know or guess who built the model and think the modeler was capable of better, but you must judge only what is before you.

Judges will be divided into teams of two (2) or three (3), with each team assigned to judge one category (construction, detail, conformity, finish & lettering, or scratchbuilding) and across all classes (locomotives, cars, structures, etc.). Each judging team will have a Senior (or lead) judge. The senior judge will transfer the score to the entry form.

7. Each member of the judging team will study the model on their own and write a preliminary score on a scratch paper. The team will then compare these scores and review them with other team members. If there are differences, discuss why each judge thinks the way they do before averaging or otherwise agreeing on a score.

8. If you have a model in a category being judged, you must excuse yourself from the category and move to the check in area away from the models.

9. Use **pencil only** when writing on the Judges Score Sheet since the Region Contest Chair has the right to review and modify scores he deems necessary.