

National Model Railroad Association

Pacific Southwest Region



CONTEST RULES

**Revision 6
April 1, 2015**

Background and Revision History

The Pacific Southwest Region (PSR) Contest Program is an integral part of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Achievement Program. It shall reward those who participate and display models or other items for the enjoyment of the members. The purpose of a PSR contest is to allow members to display their models, have them judged by experienced judges who will provide useful feedback, so that the modeler can improve his or her skills. Additionally, those models that achieve high enough scores will receive Merit Awards which will help the modeler advance in the NMRA Achievement Program.

The Contest Rules (originally called the Contest Directory) have been revised six times since created. The revision history is as follows:

- Prepared by Henry Graham and Adopted, April 1983;
- Revised by Ralph Oxhandler, April 1989;
- Reformatted by Lindsay Smith, June 1997;
- Revised by Duane Buck, May 2001;
- Revised by Bill Jacobs, June 2009, April 2012, and this current revision.

Hank Graham of Needles, CA, the charter Contest Committee Chairman, originally prepared the Contest Guideline. Hank's goal was to have the PSR recognized as the region with the highest standards of model construction. Hank used the Pacific Coast Region directory and national NMRA standards to prepare the document. Additionally, Charles Hepperle of Los Angeles, CA, was instrumental in establishing the photo contest in the PSR. Hank was replaced by Ralph Oxhandler of Vista, CA, who had judged numerous contests, and wished to improve the judging standards. Ralph prepared his revision using his computer and Paintbrush software to make a more readily reproducible document. Because Paintbrush required a lot of memory, Lindsay Smith copied the document into Microsoft Word format to make the document more easily edited or transferred by electronic mail. In the 2001 revision, Duane Buck, of Sedona, AZ, made 13 major changes, primarily to align the document with national NMRA standards. The 2009 and 2012 revisions, authored by Bill Jacobs of Las Vegas, NV, also were driven by changes in the national NMRA contest rules. This current revision, also authored by Bill Jacobs was primarily driven by comments and suggestions from the membership.

Changes in Revision Six

The PSR Contest Rules have always been closely aligned with national NMRA contest and Achievement Program standards. There have been numerous changes, improvements, and upgrades of these standards in the last few years.

Changes in this revision are:

1. Establishes the Judged Model Contest, the Photo Contest and the Module Contest as judge evaluated. The People's Choice format remains for Arts and Crafts and Display-only Models.

2. Establishes definitive eligibility requirements for entry in all Contest events.

Contest Committee

As per the PSR By-laws, the Contest Committee consists of the PSR Contest Chairman and the Contest Chairmen of the four Divisions in the PSR. The PSR Contest Chairman is responsible for the maintenance of this document, with input and review by the Committee members. The Committee is responsible for the conduct and administration of PSR contests, including staffing; recruitment and training of contest judges; and resolution of rule questions or queries at contest events.

Judges

Model and Module Contest Judges shall be members of the NMRA who are recognized as experienced and adept modelers by their peers (Master Model Railroaders are desirable, but this is not a requirement). They need not be PSR members. They must be totally conversant with the NMRA judging guidelines. Members of the PSR Contest Committee may be judges. Judges may enter models in the contest, but they must recuse themselves from judging any models in the category entered. As a rule, the minimum number of judges shall be five, one for each judging category. The desired number of judges is 10 (two for each judging category). One judge will be appointed Senior Judge. The Senior Judge shall clarify points or questions, verify point totals, determine who will judge the photos, modules, and arts and crafts entries, and lead the judging team. No judging shall be conducted outside the contest room, with the exception of modules, or models on modules, which may be participating in a train show in conjunction with the Contest.

A Senior Photo Contest Judge shall be appointed prior to the Photo Contest. The Senior Judge will determine and procure additional judges needed based on the number of entries and known qualifications of these individuals. All Photo Contest Judges shall be registered at the event in which the contest is held.

Contest General Information

A. Contest Events

The NMRA national contest guidelines list nine contest events, these are: Judged Model Contest; Locomotive Performance Contest; Photo Contest; Switching Contest; Arts and Crafts Contest; People's Choice Awards; Module Contest; Model Showcase; and Pass Contest. Some of these events have not been utilized by the PSR for some time, if ever. The PSR Contest Events are:

1. Judged Model Contest,
2. Module Contest,
3. Photo Contest, and
4. People's Choice Awards in Display-only Models and Arts and Crafts.

B. Eligibility

Any member of the NMRA in good standing, except those earning more than 10% of their income by building commercial railroad models, is eligible to compete in the Judged Model Contest, the Module Contest, and Display-only Models. Commercially built models are not eligible for awards and should not be entered. Any member of the NMRA in good standing is eligible to enter the Photo Contest. Entrants in the Arts and Crafts Contest need not be NMRA members but must be registered at the event in which the Contest is held. Only entries which are the product of the entrant will be considered by the judges, and awards shall be based on the effort by the entrant.

C. Security

Neither the PSR nor the Host Committee can assume responsibility in the event of loss or damage to an entry. Reasonable protection will be provided for the contest room contents. Contest entries must be claimed by the entrant or his proxy at the time specified by the Host Contest Chairman. The Contest Committee shall not be responsible for returning any entry not claimed at the end of the announced time.

D. Forms

Each entry must be accompanied by the official NMRA forms, properly filled out and signed by the entrant or his assigned proxy. The required forms for each Contest Event are listed in the description of that event. Proxy entries must be accompanied by a letter of authorization signed by the entrant. Proxy entries are intended to allow those who cannot attend personally to participate in the Contest. Contest forms should be completed prior to the time of entry. A claim check will be provided for each item entered, which must be presented to retrieve entries after the contest

E. Number of Entries

There shall be no restrictions on the number of models entered by a single entrant in the Judged Model Contest. In the divisions of Arts and Crafts, Photo, and Display-only Model, each entrant is limited to a maximum of ten entries with a maximum of five entries in one category. There are no entry fees. Joint entries (work performed by more than one modeler) shall not be judged, except for the Module Contest.

F. Minimum Award Scores

All models or modules receiving a plaque must receive a score of at least 50% of the available points (62.5 points). Additionally, any category having only one entry shall be considered for an award if, in the opinion of the Judges, the model earns at least 40% of the available points (50 points).

G. Schedule

The PSR Contest Chairman, in cooperation with the Host Contest Chairman, shall establish the contest room schedule to include time windows for model entry, judging, and pickup. If possible, this schedule will be distributed to the membership through the PSR Dispatch prior to the Contest.

H. Contest Room Etiquette

All visitors to the contest room shall not touch or otherwise interfere with displayed models, photos, or arts and crafts. Visitors to the contest room during judging shall not converse with, or otherwise interfere with the judges. Contest room staff will admonish those who do not observe these rules and they may be asked to leave the contest room.

I. Prior Award Restrictions

Models which have placed first in any prior NMRA National or Regional Contest cannot be entered. Any models which have been entered in division contests are welcome at PSR Contests.

Judged Model Contest

A. Judged Model Contest Rules

This is a competitive event for models; all entries shall be judged by teams of experienced judges using a point scoring system in accordance with current NMRA Achievement Program Judging Guidelines.

B. Scale

All scales shall be combined in each of the categories. There shall be no divisions of entries within each category for different scales.

C. Categories

1. Steam Locomotive – All types of locomotives where the prototype was powered by steam. The model must include an electric motor or other means of propulsion and be capable of operation to be eligible for the category.
2. Diesel and Other Locomotives – All types of locomotives except for those in 1, above, and traction types, 3 below. The model must include an electric motor or other means of propulsion and be capable of operation to be eligible for the category. In the case of multiple joined locomotives, at least one of the units must be powered.
3. Traction – All equipment associated with urban, suburban, and interurban electrically powered railroads.
4. Passenger Car – All types of passenger revenue carrying equipment, including coaches, observation, mail, baggage, and combine cars, as well as powered rail buses and RDC cars. Express reefers are not included.
5. Freight Car – All types of freight revenue carrying cars, including express reefers.
6. Caboose – All, including traditional, bobbers, drovers, and transfer types.
7. Non-Revenue – Right-of-way/track maintenance cars, rail and inspection cars, railroad cranes, and others not considered directly involved in revenue service.
8. Structure On-Line – Structures which are adjacent to and have direct access to railroad tracks.
9. Structure Off-Line – Structures which do not have direct access to railroad tracks.
10. Display On-Line – Modeled scenes which are adjacent to and have direct access to railroad tracks.

11. Display Off-Line - Modeled scenes which do not have direct access to railroad tracks.

D. Awards

There shall be awards in every populated category, if the entries earn the minimum score of 50 points (40% of the available total). First place will receive a plaque, second, a red ribbon, and third, a white ribbon. The minimum score to receive a plaque is 62.5 points (50% of 125 points possible). Additionally, any model receiving a Merit Award, but not placing shall receive an honorable mention ribbon.

E. Forms

1. Model Contest Entry Form, Form #901, latest revision, available on the NMRA Website.
2. Model Contest Judges Score Sheet, Form #902, latest revision, available on the NMRA Website.

People's Choice-Model Display-Only Division

A. Model Division Rules

Requirements listed under General Contest Information will apply. This division is intended to apply to those members who do not wish to have their models competitively judged or fill out paperwork, but who wish to display models for the enjoyment of attendees at the event.

B. Categories

Categories shall be the same as in section C of the Judged Model Contest.

C. Awards

Awards will be determined by popular vote of the members attending the event. A voting container will be available in the contest room. First place will receive a blue ribbon; second, a red ribbon; and third, a white ribbon. Any number of honorable mention ribbons may be presented. This division is eligible for the Favorite Model award (section F under Special Awards, below). Resolution of ties is the responsibility of the Contest Committee.

D. Forms

1. Model Contest Entry Form, Form #901, latest revision, available on the NMRA Website.

Photo Contest

A. Photo Division Rules

In addition to the requirements listed under General Contest Information the following also apply.

PSR Contest Rules, Revision 6, April 1, 2015

1. Photos produced using either film or digital cameras are permitted.
2. Prints shall be mounted on flat, rigid board or matted with similar material – no folders or glass frames are allowed. Photo and mount shall not exceed 12” x 16” in size. Minimum mount size is 8” x 10” and minimum print size is 5” x 7”.
3. Prints shall have the entrant’s name on the back. Prints may be titled on the front. Prints with the entrant’s name on the front will not be accepted.
4. Anyone who derives more than 50% of his or her income as a professional photographer is excluded from the contest.
5. The entrant must have taken the photo himself or herself. Computer enhanced images may be entered provided that the enhancement was personally performed by the entrant. Commercial processing and matting are permitted.
6. Photos that have won an award at a previous NMRA National or Regional Contest shall not be entered.
7. All entrants grant the right to reproduce and publish any award winning photograph to the official publications of the NMRA, the PSR, or PSR Divisions. Rights for any other use are granted only by the written permission of the photographer. The images are the property of the entrant in any case.

B. Categories

1. Model-Black and White Print
2. Model-Color Print
3. Prototype- Black and White Print
4. Prototype- Color Print

C. Awards

There shall be awards in every populated category if the entries receive the minimum score of 50% of the available total points. First place will receive a blue ribbon; second, a red ribbon; and third, a white ribbon. Any number of honorable mention ribbons may be presented. The photo which receives the highest score overall will receive a plaque in lieu of a blue ribbon. Resolution of ties is the responsibility of the Contest Committee.

D. Forms

1. Model Contest Entry Form, Form #901, latest revision, available on the NMRA Website.
2. Photo Contest Judges Score Sheet, Form PSR #902, latest revision, available on the PSR Website

People’s Choice-Arts and Crafts Division

A. Arts and Crafts Division Rules

Any Arts and Crafts project in the categories listed below may be entered into the Arts and Crafts Division.

B. Categories

1. General
2. Railroadiana

3. Needlework

C. Awards

There shall be awards in every populated category. Awards will be determined by popular vote of the members attending the event. Voting containers for each of the three categories will be available in the contest room. First place in each category will receive a blue ribbon; second, a red ribbon; and third, a white ribbon. Any number of honorable mention ribbons may be presented. The entry which receives the largest number of votes overall will receive a plaque in lieu of a blue ribbon. Resolution of ties is the responsibility of the Contest Committee.

D. Forms

1. Model Contest Entry Form, Form #901, latest revision, available on the NMRA Website.

Module Contest

A. Module Contest Rules

The module Contest is a competitive event for modules. All entries shall be judged by a team of experienced judges using a point scoring system. There are no written judging guidelines at this time; however, the judge's score sheet provides the factors and the corresponding maximum point scores. A module is defined as a small layout which includes supplemental scenery and track work which is designed to attach to and operate with other similar modules. All scales shall be combined in the module contest. Any individual or group wishing to enter the module contest shall check into the contest room during the time period in which entries to the other contests are being accepted.

B. Categories

1. Individual – A module entry built by an individual person
2. Group – A module built by a group of people

C. Awards

There shall be awards in every populated category. First place will receive a plaque, second, a red ribbon, and third, a white ribbon. The minimum score to receive a plaque is 62.5 points (50% of 125 points possible). Additionally, any module receiving a score of 87.5 points or higher, but not placing shall receive an honorable mention ribbon.

D. Forms

1. Model Contest Entry Form, Form #901, latest revision, available on the NMRA Website.
2. Module Contest Score Sheet, Form #903, latest revision, available on the NMRA Website.

Special Awards

A. Best of Show Award

1. The Best of Show Award is presented to the most outstanding model entered into the judged model contest.
2. Selection of a model for the award shall be made by a committee of three contest judges appointed by the PSR Contest Chairman. All entries shall be considered, so as not to prejudice, for example, categories which may be populated by only one entry. The method of selection shall be determined by the selection committee.
3. The award shall preclude an award in the judged model contest. If an entry in a category is judged to be both first place and Best of Show, only the Best of Show plaque will be awarded and the second place entry will be elevated to first place; third to second; and the next highest scoring entry, third.
4. The award shall be a plaque.

B. Youth Award

1. This award is presented for the most outstanding model entered in the construction events by an entrant under 18 years of age (17 or under).
2. The youth entrant with the highest number of points scored is the winner.
3. The award shall be a plaque.

C. Ingenuity Award

1. This award is presented for the model, assembly, part, or component of a model which exhibits the most unique and innovative use of material in any category of the judged model contest.
2. Selection of a model for the award shall be made by a committee of three contest judges appointed by the PSR Contest Chairman. All entries shall be considered. The method of selection shall be determined by the selection committee.
3. The award shall be a plaque.

D. Thumb's Levity Award

1. This award is presented for the model in any category of the judged model contest exhibiting the most blatant or subtle humor, prank, outrage, or joke for the amusement of the viewers.
2. Selection of a model for the award shall be made by a committee of three contest judges appointed by the PSR Contest Chairman. All entries shall be considered. The method of selection shall be determined by the selection committee.
3. The award shall be a plaque.

E. PSR President's Award

1. This award shall be presented to a PSR member entering a PSR regional convention judged model contest for the first time.
2. The winner of this award shall be selected by the PSR President from the entire first time model contest entries present in the contest room.
3. The award shall be a plaque.

F. Favorite Model Award

1. This award is presented to the model chosen, by popular vote of the convention attendees, as the favorite from those entered in the either the judged model construction contest or the Peoples Choice model display-only division.

2. Ballots will be made available in the contest room and the count tabulated by the contest staff.

3. The award shall be a plaque.

Responsibilities

A. Host Convention Committee

The Host Convention Committee shall be responsible for all expenses, awards, and costs for the Convention which includes contests. The Host Committee Contest Chairman, in coordination with the PSR Contest Chairman, will determine the schedule for the contest room. The Host Committee is responsible for security of the contest room when it is not open to Convention attendees. The Host Committee shall provide easels or other suitable means of displaying entries in the photo contest. The Host Committee may elect to restrict the photo contest to certain categories, in coordination with the PSR Contest Chairman, but this should be done well in advance of the contest so that it may be publicized prior to the event. The PSR Contest Committee shall procure award items in volume. The cost of these items will be prorated to the Host Committee as used.

B. Records

The PSR Contest Chairman shall retain copies of all entry forms, contest entry logs, winner's lists and a list of judges/staff until after the next convention. If at all possible, all records dealing with merit awards will be delivered to the PSR Achievement Program Manager at the convention; barring this, the PSR Contest Chairman will post them to the Achievement Program Manager within seven days of convention's end. A list of winners shall be presented to the PSR *Dispatch* Editor and when possible, an opportunity to photograph the models will be accorded the editor or his designated photographer. A list will also be provided to the PSR Website Coordinator.

C. Revisions to the Contest Rules

Within 30 days after each PSR Region Convention, or as obviously necessary, the Contest Rules will be reviewed by the PSR Contest Chairman to determine if revisions are required. If so, draft copies of the revised version will be prepared by the PSR Contest Chairman and distributed to the PSR Contest Committee for review. After review comments are incorporated, the document will be submitted to the PSR Board of Directors for approval. Any member of the PSR may submit proposed changes to the PSR Contest Chairman.

