

## 2025 Walthers National Model Railroad Build-Off

### OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

All questions: [www.walthers.com/NMRBO](http://www.walthers.com/NMRBO)

or contact us at [custserve@walthers.com](mailto:custserve@walthers.com) or 1-(800) 4TRAINS.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

To enter the "Walthers National Model Railroad Build-off" (the "Competition"), you must, at the time of entering, be: (a) a citizen of, or a lawful permanent resident of, the United States; and (b) meet the requirements for your category and state of residency. The Competition is void where prohibited by law or otherwise restricted.

Because the purchase of a product is not required participants from all states may enter.

Competition is for non-professional "hobbyist" builders only. For the purposes of this Competition, a professional builder is someone who earns money or a livelihood from building miniature models.

Only one entry per person in each category. If an individual elects to participate as part of a team entry he/she may not also submit an individual entry of their own in the same category but may enter another category.



***Prior year winners of Walthers NMRBO competition will not be eligible to win any of the prize levels three years in a row in the same category. They may, however, submit an entry for another category.***

Employees of Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. (the "Sponsor") and its affiliated companies, parents, subsidiaries, service partners, and advertising and promotion agencies (collectively, "Sponsor Entities"), and their IRS dependents, immediate families (*i.e.*, parents, children, siblings, spouse) and members of their households (whether related or not) are ineligible to participate in this Competition. By participating, all Entrants (as defined below) agree to the rules and conditions of the Competition.

#### **2025 OVERVIEW:**



The Walthers National Model Railroad Build-Off is a competition to test entrants' modeling skills based on the theme SILVER SCREEN SCENES. For 2025 the entrant must model a scene or interpret the feel of a movie or television program that includes a train as its focus or theme. (See [www.walthers.com/NMRBO](http://www.walthers.com/NMRBO) for a list of potential movies to consider or select your own). It is not necessary to purchase a product from Walthers.com to enter, however the incorporation of three Walthers products from any of our family of brands must be included. This can include a product you might already own. Brands include: WalthersProto, WalthersMainline, WalthersTrainline, Walthers Life-Like, Walthers Cornerstone, Walthers SceneMaster, WalthersTrack and Walthers Chooch. When you enter you will be asked to list the products used. You will also be asked to submit a brief statement explaining your movie/TV scene.

We are also offering the popular Freestyle category that does not require following a prescribed theme, and the contents are up to the entrant provided the diorama is created during the contest period, March 1, 2025, to July 1, 2025, and built to the dimensions stated in the rules.

## **2025 COMPETITION CATEGORIES:**

There are **three categories for 2025**. Each category has unique rules and requirements in addition to the general rules. Please read these rules completely to ensure that you comply with both the general rules and applicable category rules.

Three winners from each category will be selected to receive a prize.

- **SILVER SCREEN SCENES – Adult.** Open to non-professional individuals fifteen (15) years old or older at the time of entry. Model either a scene or interpret the general feel of a movie or TV program that includes a train as a major component of the plot. Entrants build a diorama with materials and scale of their choice in a 2'w x 1'd (24" x 12") size. Entrants under the age of 18 must include a signed Minor Consent Form by a parent or legal guardian found at our contest website: [www.walthers.com/NMRBO](http://www.walthers.com/NMRBO).
- **SILVER SCREEN SCENES – Youth.** Open to youth ages fourteen (14) or younger at the time of entry. Model either a scene or interpret the general feel of a movie or TV program that includes a train as a major component of the plot. Entrants build a diorama with materials and scale of their choice in a 2'w x 1'd (24" x 12") size. All entrants must include a signed Minor Consent Form by a parent or legal guardian found at our contest website: [www.walthers.com/NMRBO](http://www.walthers.com/NMRBO).
- **FREESTYLE Diorama Category:** Entrants build a diorama with subject, scale and materials of their choice to a pre-specified size of 4'w x 2'd (48" x 24"). The model is then submitted and judged against all other entries and scales entered in the Freestyle Category. No age restrictions, individual or teams can enter. Those under 18 must include a signed Minor Consent Form by a parent or legal guardian found at our competition website: [www.walthers.com/NMRBO](http://www.walthers.com/NMRBO)

## **GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**

For the purposes of these Rules, each individual or team is deemed an "Entrant." The spirit of the competition requires that all entrants start at the same time to maintain a level playing field. That start date is March 1, 2025. All entries must be created between the dates of March 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025, submitted no later than July 1, 2025, and in the case of the Freestyle diorama, must be an independent diorama meaning it cannot be a 'section' of an existing, larger layout. Any obvious pre-built, or portions of existing layouts will be disqualified. Entrants of the Freestyle category are not limited by a prescribed theme and may use any materials they wish to create their diorama provided the diorama meets the pre-specified size requirements and is built during the contest period.



**Entries in all categories must include track and a locomotive and/or train cars.**

**A word about the Freestyle diorama size:** The overall size MUST be adhered to. This is one of the ways we can ensure that the entry has not been taken from a section of an existing layout. The disqualification of an entry is not something we take lightly and do not care to do. Please ensure we can accept your entry by following the size requirements:

**Freestyle Any Scale – 4'w x 2'd**

## **JUDGING AND JUDGING CRITERIA:**

Judging will begin July 7, 2025. Entrants may only submit one entry per category but can enter multiple categories if they fit the age requirements.

Entries will be judged by a team of modeling experts. Winners will be decided based on the judging criteria described below for their category.

Judging will be based on a points system as defined within each category. All decisions of the judges are final. Any entry that fails to follow rules will be disqualified from winning prizes.



**For Silver Screen Scenes, Adult and Youth** -The entry requires two additional elements:

1. List the three Walthers products used in the creation of the diorama, also include photos of products.
2. Include a statement about the movie or TV program you selected and the scene or feeling you aimed to capture in your diorama. This information can be submitted through the online entry form. If entering by mail via USPS, UPS, or FedEx, please include this statement on a separate sheet of paper.



**Note: 10 points are automatically assigned to all entrants for Adherence to Requirements at the start. Points are removed if any of the rules and requirements are not followed.**

### **Judging Criteria – SILVER SCREEN SCENES – Adult:**

- |                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Interpretation of Theme/Creativity | Possible points 25 |
| 2. Skill and Complexity               | Possible points 25 |
| 3. Adherence to Requirements          | Possible points 10 |

### **Judging Criteria – SILVER SCREEN SCENES - Youth:**

- |                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Interpretation of Theme/Creativity | Possible points 25 |
| 2. Skill and Complexity               | Possible points 25 |
| 3. Adherence to Requirements          | Possible points 10 |

### **Judging Criteria – Freestyle Category:**

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Creativity                | Possible Points 25 |
| 2. Skill and Complexity      | Possible Points 25 |
| 3. Adherence to Requirements | Possible points 10 |

## **PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING ENTRY:**

There are two methods of submitting your entry:

(1) PREFERRED METHOD: Uploading photos and filling out the electronic entry form utilizing our contest portal at: [www.walthers.com/NMRBO](http://www.walthers.com/NMRBO).

(2) Sending photos and your entry information via USPS, UPS, or FedEx to:

Walthers NMRBO Competition  
Wm. K. Walthers, Inc.  
5601 W. Florist Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53218

Online Entry Form will require name, age, email address, mailing address, phone number as well as the two additional elements for Silver Screen Scene entrants. **Email is our preferred and primary method of contact.** If you do not have an email address, you must provide a phone number or some other way for us to contact you. Entries by mail should include this data written legibly on a sheet of paper. Youth individual entries must also have a parent or guardian fill out the Minor Consent Form and backup contact information. The email listed for youth entry must be monitored as it is our primary method of communication. If a youth does not routinely check email, then we suggest a parent use their email for the youth entry. Any Youth team entries or adult teams with an immediate minor family member must include an individual Minor Consent form filled out for each minor member. It is the sole responsibility of the primary entrant to obtain permission from the parent or guardian of each individual team member who is under the age of 18.

### **SUBMITTING ENTRY:**



Each entry must consist of color digital photographs depicting the following:

- Photos during the process to document activity. (1 or 2 will be sufficient)
- Individual or team photo with your final entry in the shot.
- Photos with inclusion of tape measure alongside width and length to indicate size.
- Photos of final entry from several angles; top down, front, each side.

**PRO TIP:** Consider the creativity used in photographing your entry. Setting your finished diorama outside to capture a natural background will enhance realism and can make a dramatic difference in how your entry is perceived. Also helpful, the use of detail shots. This is where you can really show off your work! Sometimes the difference between first and second place is found in the details. If we cannot see them, we cannot give credit. Professional photography is not necessary; pictures can be taken with a smartphone. However, we encourage all entrants to make sure their photos make use of good lighting. If photographing indoors, try to remove background 'noise' such as table clutter, pictures on a wall etc.

### **ENTRY FORMAT:**

Photo entries must: (a) be uploaded in .jpg format with a maximum file size of 2 MB; (b) not contain any copyrighted or trademarked content (other than as owned by the Entrant or Sponsor); (c) not show any recognizable individual other than the Entrant (and each team member) unless the entrant has obtained permission from such individuals appearing recognizably in the photo (or the parent/guardian of any minors appearing in the photo); (d) not contain vulgar, obscene, reckless, illegal or indecent behavior; (e) not defame or libel any third party; or (f) invade the reasonable privacy of any third party.

Entering via mail: Although not preferred, if you are unable to enter online, you may submit your entry and photos through mail. Each entry must include the same number and types of images as mentioned for uploaded entries. Color photographs printed with a printer are acceptable if the images are clear.

If you have any trouble uploading images, or are unsure how to do it, please contact us at [custserve@walters.com](mailto:custserve@walters.com) and we will be happy to help you.

## **COPYRIGHT AND USE OF PHOTOS**

By submitting a photo, the entrant represents and warrants that he or she owns the photo submitted, or has obtained permission from the owner of the photo to enter the photo in this Competition and entrant has obtained permission from all living individuals appearing in the photo (or the parent/guardian of any individuals appearing in the photo who are under 18 years old) to submit the photo as part of this Competition. Each entrant shall retain the copyright to the entrant's submitted photos. By submitting a photo to the Competition, entrant hereby grants to Sponsor and its affiliates and advertising partners a non-exclusive, perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free license to use the Photo in connection with Sponsor's social media and marketing and advertising of Sponsor's products via the internet, social media platforms, website, email marketing, flyers, publications and other marketing materials in accordance with these Official Rules. Entries that do not comply with these Official Rules or that otherwise contain prohibited or inappropriate content as determined by the Sponsor, in its sole discretion, will be disqualified or considered for prizes. Sponsor further reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to remove, block or restrict any entry that Sponsor believes does not comply with these rules or edit any entry to blur out third-party trademarks, names or logos.

## **CATEGORY WINNER SELECTION:**

**Announcement of final winners:** The final three winners in each category will be announced early to mid-August 2025. Announcements will be made via social media after directly contacting winners to notify them of results. Those who make it to the finalist level may be asked to provide some additional background about themselves or their team and may be asked for additional photos. Walthers reserves the right to award one or more Honorable Mentions if they determine that an entry merits recognition but does not place in the top three prize levels.

## **PRIZES:**

### **SILVER SCREEN SCENES - Adult**

- First place - \$1,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250 product bundle from Walthers.com

### **SILVER SCREEN SCENES - Youth**

- First place - \$1,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$500
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250 product bundle from Walthers.com

### **FREESTYLE**

- First place - \$2,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$1,000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250 product bundle from Walthers.com

**Awarding of prizes:** Upon announcement of winners, a W9 form will be emailed (mailed if no email is available) to the winner. (By law, all prizes over \$599 must fill out this form and sponsor must declare/ provide information to IRS.) All money will be paid to the contact person listed as entrant at the address identified in the entry form within 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) of receiving the signed W9 form, but not before August 15, 2025. In the case of teams, it is the sole responsibility of the official team

entrant to allocate winnings among the team members or otherwise allocate winnings for purposes decided by the team. Sponsor shall not resolve any dispute among team members.

All federal, state, or other tax liabilities (including income taxes) arising from this Competition will be the sole responsibility of the winner. Winning entries and prizes are not transferable; no prize substitutions are allowed except by the Sponsor who reserves the right to substitute prizes with prizes of equal or greater value. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place product bundle prizes cannot be redeemed for cash. The Sponsor, its affiliates and agencies are responsible for prize delivery only.

**WAIVER:**

Sponsor Entities are not responsible for any technical, mechanical, printing, typographical, human or other error of any kind relating to or in connection with the Competition, including, without limitation, errors which may occur in the administration of the Competition, the processing of entries, the announcement of the prize or any Competition-related materials; or for any liability for damage to any computer system resulting from participating in, or accessing or downloading information in connection with this Competition; for incomplete, lost, late, stolen, damaged, inaccurate, illegible, misdirected, garbled, delayed or undelivered entries; or for technical hardware or software malfunctions or failures of any kind, lost, unavailable network connections or failed, incomplete, garbled or delayed computer transmission, which may limit an individual's ability to participate. Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion, to disqualify any entrant or entry that is in violation of the Official Rules or to cancel, suspend or modify the Competition and disqualify any implicated entrant(s), (and their entries) if any fraud, virus, actions by entrants, technical or other error or problem of any kind, or any other occurrence corrupts or affects the administration, integrity, security or proper play of the Competition, as determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. In the event of cancellation, Sponsor reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to award any prize in a random drawing from among all eligible, non-suspect entries received up to the time of the event or action warranting such cancellation or to take any other action it deems equitable to fairly award any prize.

**NO LIABILITY:**

By entering, entrants and the winners agree to comply with all Official Rules as stated and agree to release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless the Sponsor Entities, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives and agents from and against any claims made by the winner, entrants, or any other third parties, related in any way to the operation of this Competition as well as any other claims, damages or liability resulting in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from acceptance, possession, misuse or use of any prize or participation in any Competition-related activity or participation in this Competition.

**WINNER INFORMATION/OFFICIAL RULES REQUEST:**

To receive prize, winner information or an additional copy of these Official Rules, send a self-addressed, stamped business-size (#10) envelope by August 31, 2025, to

Walthers NMRBO Competition  
Wm. K. Walthers, Inc.  
5601 W. Florist Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53218

**All questions: [Walthers.com/NMRBO](http://Walthers.com/NMRBO) or contact us at [custserve@walthers.com](mailto:custserve@walthers.com).**