



## WALTHERS NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD BUILD-OFF

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS

### FREESTYLE CATEGORY (Individual or Team)

<b>AGE</b>	Open to all ages, individuals or teams.*
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	Open in all 50 states.
<b>SCALE</b>	<b>ALL SCALES</b>
<b>PURCHASE REQUIREMENT</b>	No purchase is necessary to enter. Entrants create a scene using materials of their choice. Each entry must include track and a train.
<b>SCENE DIMENSIONS</b>	<b>Required size: 4'W x 2'D (48" x 24")</b> <b>Must be a standalone diorama. May not be part of a larger layout.</b>
<b>JUDGING CRITERIA</b>	<b>Creativity and Artistry</b> – 40% <b>Skill and Complexity</b> – 60%
<b>PRIZES</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> place - \$2,000 cash   2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$1,000 cash   3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$500 product bundle from walthers.com</b>
<b>BACKDROPS</b>	<b>Backdrops are not required.</b> However, a thoughtfully designed backdrop that enhances the theme and brings a scene to life could count towards the overall appeal and creativity. Should you decide to include a backdrop, there are no specifications or requirements for size or construction.
<b>FASCIA</b>	<b>A fascia is not required.</b> It is recommended that you think about how you finish the edges of your scene so as not to detract from the overall presentation.
<b>BASE</b>	We are not specifying, nor recommending base requirements or construction. A simple foam insulation base is adequate as is a sheet of plywood cut to size. There is no need for elaborate bench work as this is an area that will not be judged. The entry does not require electrical work or a functioning train, however the inclusion of a train is highly recommended and encouraged.
<b>ENTRY FORMAT</b>	All entries are submitted online through the NMRBO website. Each entry consists of filling out the online form and submitting digital photographs. Photo entries must be uploaded in .jpg format with a maximum file size of 5MB. The more the better! <b>Pro Tip:</b> Declutter the area around your model so your entry is the star of the photo. Use natural light, when possible for taking photos. Photos must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of a tape measure or ruler to verify size, length and width.</li> <li>• Photos showing several angles of your diorama; front, right, left and top down, and close-ups showing details.</li> <li>• Photo of entrant(s) with their finished diorama.</li> </ul>
<b>MINOR PERMISSION*</b>	Minors (under 18) must have parent, or guardian signature and contact information. If submitting as a youth team, all participants must submit individual permission forms. See instructions at walthers.com/nmrbo
<b>SUBMITTING ENTRY &amp; QUESTIONS</b>	<b>walthers.com/nmrbo</b> All information will be found at this site including official rules, permission forms for minors, critical dates, and instructions for how to submit your entry. Entry Form available after June 1, 2026. Any questions, please contact <a href="mailto:custserv@walthers.com">custserv@walthers.com</a> . <b>ALL ENTRIES DUE OCTOBER 1, 2026.</b>

**\*All entrants under the age of 18 must include a Minor Consent Form found at walthers.com/NMRBO-Permission-Form**