



WALTHERS NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD BUILD-OFF

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS

YOUTH - Historical Diorama: Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

This year's theme honors America's 250th Anniversary, inviting modelers to celebrate the nation's rich history, enduring spirit, and the vital role railroads have played in shaping it. From the expansion westward to the growth of industry and community, railroads have long been woven into the American story. Entrants are encouraged to interpret this milestone in a way that is meaningful to them—whether by recreating a defining historical moment or capturing the essence of America's journey through time. It's an opportunity to reflect on 250 years of progress, innovation, and imagination, and to bring that story to life in miniature.

AGE	Open to individuals or teams fourteen (14) years old or younger at the time of entry.*
ELIGIBILITY	Open in all 50 states.
PURCHASE REQUIREMENT	No purchase is necessary to enter. However, all submissions must incorporate at least three Walthers-branded products, which can include items already owned by the entrant. Each entry must feature track and at least one locomotive and/or train cars.
SCENE DIMENSIONS	Required size: 2'W x 1'D (24" x 12")
SCALE	HO or N
JUDGING CRITERIA	Creativity and Artistry – 60% Skill and Complexity – 40%
PRIZES	1st place - \$1,000 cash 2nd place - \$500 cash 3rd place - \$250 product bundle from walthers.com
PHOTO REQUIREMENTS	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! Pro Tip: 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"> • Inclusion of a tape measure or ruler to verify size, length and width. • Photos showing several angles of your diorama; front, right, left and top down, and close-ups showing details. • Photo of entrant(s) holding their finished diorama. • Photo of three Walthers products used.
ENTRY REQUIREMENT	Provide a list of the three Walthers products used in the entry. Submit a brief statement explaining the inspiration behind your chosen historical scene. Include photos of the three products used.
MINOR PERMISSION*	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
SUBMITTING ENTRY & QUESTIONS	walthers.com/nmrbo All information will be found at this site including official rules, permission forms for minors, critical dates, links to freight cars and kits for purchase, and instructions for how to submit your entry. Entry Form available after June 1, 2026. Any questions, please contact custserv@walthers.com . ALL ENTRIES DUE OCTOBER 1, 2026.

*All Youth entries must include Minor Consent Form found at walthers.com/NMRBO-Permission-Form