



WALTHERS NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD BUILD-OFF

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS

• YOUTH - Patriotic Paint Scheme: Freight Car Decorating

This category celebrates America's 250th Anniversary through the art of paint and design, inviting modelers to transform a freight car into a tribute to the nation's heritage. From bold red, white, and blue motifs to subtle nods to history, participants are encouraged to express what America means to them through creative, patriotic finishes. Whether inspired by historic railroads, iconic symbols, or personal interpretations of national pride, each entry becomes a rolling canvas—honoring 250 years of American spirit, innovation, and identity in a uniquely eye-catching way.

AGE	Open to individuals or teams fourteen (14) years old or younger at the time of entry.*
ELIGIBILITY	Void in Colorado, Maryland, and North Dakota due to state regulations surrounding contests.
SCALE	HO
PURCHASE REQUIREMENT	Purchase of Walthers Mainline® Freight Car from walthers.com/NMRBO Several options to choose from. Available from June 1, 2026.
JUDGING CRITERIA	Creativity and Artistry – 60% Skill and Complexity – 40% NOTE: Should you want to modify the car by adding detail parts, new wheel sets and couplers, you may but they will not be considered in the judging.
PRIZES	1st place - \$500 cash 2nd place - \$250 cash 3rd place - \$100 product bundle from walthers.com
ENTRY FORMAT	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"> • Photos showing several angles of your model; front, right, left and top down, and close-ups showing details. • Photo of entrant(s) holding their finished car.
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