

The NMRA Achievement Program

WHAT IT IS
AND
WHAT'S INVOLVED

BY: W. J. SCHEERER, MMR





▶ **What it is**

- ▶ A system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby.
- ▶ An incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading.
- ▶ A way to encourage and recognize modeling achievement and service to the hobby.
- ▶ A personal commitment to share one's knowledge with others.
- ▶ A road map to making both your modeling and your hobby better.

▶ **What it is not**

- ▶ A competition with other modelers.

Areas and Certificates of Achievement

- ▶ **Model Railroad Equipment**
 - ▶ Master Builder – Motive Power
 - ▶ Master Builder Cars
- ▶ **Setting**
 - ▶ Master Builder – Structures
 - ▶ Master Builder - Scenery
 - ▶ Master Builder – Prototype Models
- ▶ **Engineering and Operation**
 - ▶ Model Railroad Engineer – Civil
 - ▶ Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical
 - ▶ Chief Dispatcher
- ▶ **Service to the Hobby**
 - ▶ Association Official
 - ▶ Association Volunteer
 - ▶ Model Railroad Author

Master Model Railroader

The ultimate achievement

▶ What is Required?

- ▶ Earn one Achievement Certificate from each of the 4 Areas.
- ▶ Earn 3 additional Achievement Certificates for a total of 7 of the 11 possible certificates.

▶ What if I don't aspire to MMR?

- ▶ Earn Achievement Certificates in areas of interest.
 - ▶ Enjoy the pride and satisfaction that result from your accomplishments.
 - ▶ Make your modeling better and learn new skills and techniques.
 - ▶ Serve the hobby, NMRA and fellow modelers.
 - ▶ In short, make a great hobby even better.

AP participation is not as difficult as many perceive

- ▶ Visit the NMRA Website and look at the Achievement Program resources available including the AP history and helpful article by Gary Leone.
- ▶ Identify the certificates that interest you.
- ▶ Look at the requirements and then look at what you have already done. You will be surprised.
- ▶ Create a plan to fulfill each requirement.
 - ▶ Keep the needs of your layout in mind.
- ▶ Use the AP checklist from the website or create a spreadsheet to track your progress.
- ▶ Read the “The Masters” Articles for each certificate.



your portal to more fun in scale model railroading

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**The Next National Convention:
2023 Texas Express in DFW, Texas**
The 2023 NMRA Annual Convention is August 20-26.



GETTING STARTED
IN MODEL RAILROADING

BECOME A MEMBER
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Achievement Program

Introduction

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers.

Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery,

- Beginner's Guide
- Achievement Program**
- Categories
- Requirements
- Forms
- Frequently Asked Questions
- "The Masters" Articles
- Definitions
- AP Awards
- AP Staff
- EduTrain
- Contests
- National Convention Clinics

We hope that you will soon find just how easy it is to participate in the Achievement Program, and if you are not yet involved start you off on the right foot. Please visit the [AP Staff Roster](#) page to find contact information for your Regional AP Manager.

Master Model Railroader®

An NMRA member qualifies as a [Master Model Railroader®](#) when he or she has obtained at least seven of the eleven Achievement Certificates provided that he or she has earned at least one Achievement Certificate in each of the four areas of the Regulations. Earning the title of Master Model Railroader® is the ultimate goal for many participants in the Achievement Program. Interested and qualified Master Model Railroaders® (MMR®) are also eligible and encouraged to serve as instructors in the "Modeling With The Masters®" program.

- [NMRA Master Model Railroaders®](#)
- [NMRA Master Model Railroaders® listed by Region Membership.](#)

Take a minute to read this interesting history of the Achievement Program. The history was prepared by CJ Riley MMR® #97 - additional material provided by: Willis Ehlert MMR® #59, Rick Shoup MMR® #234, Phil Kohl, Paul Richardson MMR® #345, and Frank Koch, HLM.

[A History of the NMRA Achievement Program \(1961 - 2018\)](#)

Before you jump in to the website, take a minute to read this short article by Gerry Leone, MMR® - This article appeared in a previous issue of **Scale Rails** (now the NMRA Magazine). Gerry put some of his thoughts down on paper regarding his quest for the MMR®. Give some thought to what Gerry has to say - He says it so well!.

[What I learned by becoming an MMR® - By Gerry Leone, MMR®.](#)

NMRA Videos
NMRA @ Home
Special Interest Groups (SIG)

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Categories

In order to acknowledge exceptional achievement in the many phases of scale model railroading, the following achievement categories have been established to encompass both the technical and service phases of the model railroad hobby. Each of the following contains the requirements plus some general explanations to provide perspective on each element. This additional maerial is not part of the requirements and is only provided to provide some additional information.

Model Railroad Equipment



[Master Builder - Motive Power](#)



[Master Builder - Cars](#)

Settings



- Beginner's Guide
- Achievement Program
- Categories**
- Author
- Cars
- Civil
- Dispatcher
- Electrical
- Master Model Railroader
- Motive Power
- Official
- Prototype Models
- Scenery
- Structures
- Volunteer
- Requirements
- Forms
- Frequently Asked Questions

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Achievement Program

Master Builder - Cars

A "Car" is just about anything that runs on rails and is NOT self-propelled (if it's self-propelled, it's Motive Power). This includes freight cars, passenger cars, maintenance of way cars (including equipment such as cranes), cabooses, cable cars, unpowered (dummy) locomotives, etc. Actually, if you have a model which is self propelled, but is a model of something that was designed to carry something (besides itself), such as a rail car, it can be used as one of the qualifying models for either Motive Power or Cars, BUT NOT BOTH.

Contact your [Regional AP Manager](#) if you have a question about which category a particular model would fall into.

To qualify for the Master Builder - Cars certificate:

1. You must build eight operable scale models of railroad cars:

"Operable" means that they must be able to roll on the track, negotiate a curve, be pulled by something, etc. It doesn't mean that every door, valve, or other moving feature of the car must work as the prototype does. (However, any operating features that you can include in your car are likely to increase your score.)

1. There must be at least four different types of cars represented in the total of eight. One of these must be a passenger car.

The intent of this requirement is show that you can model a variety of types of cars, not just several variations of the same type. For example: a 40' steel-side box car and a 36' wood side reefer would be different types of cars, but a 40' steel-side box car and a 50' steel-side box car probably would not (unless you can show that there was a substantial difference in what it took to build them). Similarly, a wood deck flat car and a steel deck flat car

- Categories
- Author
- Cars
- Civil
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Forms

NOTE: The forms listing is always undergoing updating and modification. All Achievement Program forms are available on this page and are "current" (even if the dates seem "old"...most are 2019). The dates on the various forms denote the last complete update. Please use the versions you find here. All forms listed are the current forms and can be used.

On most forms, there is a category called "other". You can use several different examples to fulfill the requirements. We decided that adding "other" was better than trying to list every possible example as that would only lead to more confusion. If in doubt, contact your local (Division) AP manager as a first step.

The AP forms are available in multiple formats where applicable.

- DOC - Microsoft Word (download to your computer, save, complete, and you have a form that can be updated as you make progress.)

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- Achievement Program
 - Categories
 - Requirements
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- Division Success Kit

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- PDF - Adobe PDF* (read/print only)

*Note - You can obtain the free Adobe viewer for most computers by visiting the Adobe Acrobat Reader page for details.

For more information about the Achievement Program, contact your Division AP Manager or the Region AP Manager or the overall Achievement Program Manager, Frank Koch (achiev@nmra.org). (contact information for the Region AP Managers is found under "AP Staff". Your Division AP Manager should be easily accessible via any of your Division officers).

General Forms:

- AP Assessment Guidelines for Motive Power, Cars and Structures: [\(PDF\)](#)
 - Contest Judging by Marty Vaughn, MMR [\(Clinic Link\)](#)
 - Judging the National Model Contest by Bob Hamm, MMR [\(Clinic Link\)](#)
- AP Requirements: [\(PDF\)](#)
- AP Checklist: [\(PDF\)](#) [\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Golden Spike Award Application: [\(PDF\)](#) [\(DOC\)](#)

Record and Validation Forms.

- EduTrain
- Contests
- National Convention Clinics
- Data Sheets
- Division Success Kit
- Estate Planning
- Legacy Data Sheets
- NMRA Videos
- NMRA @ Home
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NMRA Achievement Program Checklist

Revised – May 2006

Section A: Railroad Equipment.

Category 1 - Master Builder - Motive Power

- Completed Statement of Qualifications
- Build 3 Scale Models – all 3 with 87 ½ merit award points - All super-detailed.
 - Model 1 – Scratchbuilt - _____
 - Model 2 - _____
 - Model 3 - _____

Category 2 - Master Builder - Cars

- Completed Statement of Qualifications
- Build 8 scale models - 4 types - 1 passenger - 4 with 87 1/2 merit points - At least 4 built from scratch - all others super-detailed.
 - Model 1 - type: Passenger Points? Scratch? SOQ
 - Model 2 - type: _____ Points? Scratch? SOQ
 - Model 3 - type: _____ Points? Scratch? SOQ
 - Model 4 - type: _____ Points? Scratch? SOQ
 - Model 5 - type: _____ Points? Scratch? SOQ
 - Model 6 - type: _____ Points? Scratch? SOQ
 - Model 7 - type: _____ Points? Scratch? SOQ
 - Model 8 - type: _____ Points? Scratch? SOQ

Section B: Railroad Setting

Category 3 - Master Builder – Structures

- Completed Statement of Qualifications
- Build 12 Scale Models - 6 types - 1 bridge/trestle – 6 with 87 ½ merit award points - at least 6 built from scratch – all others super-detailed.

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"The Masters" Articles

Introduction

The Masters Series was published in The Bulletin, during the years 1970-1979. It was a series of helpful advice from NMRA Master Model Railroader(s) concerning how to qualify for a special award.

Credit for the inspiration to make these articles available goes to Rick ... number 234, and NMRA National AP Manager, at the time he suggested these as suitable material for the site. The conversion of this series is an ongoing project, additional articles from this series will be converted in the future.

Category 1. Master Builder Motive Power

- [Master Builder - Motive Power](#)
- [2008 Article from Scale Rails](#)

Category 2. Master Builder - Cars

- Beginner's Guide
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- [2008 Article from Scale Rails](#)

Category 6. Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical.

- [Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical Engineering](#)
- [Electrical Engineering](#)
- [2008 Article from Scale Rails](#)

Category 7. Chief Dispatcher

- [Chief Dispatcher](#)
- [2008 Article from Scale Rails](#)

Categories 8 and 9. Association Volunteer and Association Official

- [Association Volunteer - Official](#)
- [2008 Article from Scale Rails — Volunteer](#)
- [2008 Article from Scale Rails — Official](#)

Category 10. Model Railroad Author

- [Model Railroad Author](#)
- [2008 Article from Scale Rails](#)

Misc articles on Year of the MMR

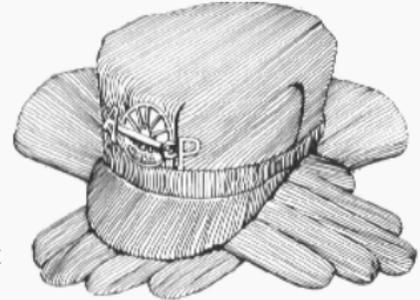
- [All I needed to know...Charlie Crawford](#)
- [Letter to the Judges...Scott Povlot](#)
- [Climb Aboard...Alan Saatkamp](#)
- [Inspection, Detection, and Repair...Michael Siegel](#)
- [What I learned...Gerry Leone](#)

The Masters Series

Association Volunteer / Association Official

Conducted by Rick Shoup, MMR
Association Volunteer

Model railroading is fun, but to quote a chewing gum commercial "double your pleasure, double your fun." The way to do that is to volunteer. The hobby lends itself to being a lone wolf. We can bury ourselves for years in all the facets the hobby has to offer. Except for an occasional trip to the hobby shop, a model railroad show or a railfan trip, we may never see another model railroader. That's not to say we aren't enjoying ourselves, it's just the nature of the hobby. However, getting active in the local part of the NMRA can make it much more enjoyable.



GET INVOLVED

Attend a division meet, take a ride to a regional convention, travel to a national convention, and you'll enjoy another aspect of the hobby, like others have. Talk to the officers, and volunteer to help the organization. There is always something to be done. Do you have any particular skills the organization can use? Can you write? Help with their publication. Are you a good photographer? Help judge photo contests. Are you a good model builder or do you hold an achievement certificate in one of the technical categories? Judge a model contest or an AP merit award. How about giving a clinic? If you're not working toward the AP Author certificate, you can claim points for Volunteer, but not both. Are you a Boy Scout railroading Merit Badge counselor? You can earn one point per month that you serve in this capacity, plus one point per Scout who earns their Railroading Merit Badge under your supervision. And how about helping out at the convention? There are a lot of jobs that need your time and talent. Your president or superintendent will find a place for you, and will appreciate your service."

By all means, keep a record of the committees you serve on, dates of service, activity, and the name of the person in charge. By keeping your record up to date, you'll



1



2



3



Association Volunteer

article by *Bret Overholtzer*, MMR photographs by *Stephen M. Priest*, MMR



Introduction

The NMRA Achievement Program has awards certificates in four categories:

- Model Railroad Equipment;
- Settings;
- Engineering and Operation; and
- Service to the Hobby.

In the "Service to the Hobby" category, certificates are provided for Official, Author, and Volunteer. This article will discuss the requirements for the Volunteer Certificate and present some ideas that will help you get involved with the hobby as a valued volunteer. Volunteer opportunities abound in the hobby, and your time and efforts will provide rewards to you well beyond the mere accomplishment of the certificate requirements.

First, a look at the Qualification Requirements

The Volunteer qualifications may look daunting at first blush, because of the strictly-defined concept of time units (TU). But when broken down and examined in detail, the precise wording is intended to

Volunteer Award, they generally fall within three categories:

- Service on NMRA committees and office-holding positions;
- Participation in conventions, clinics and open houses; and
- Service as a judge at NMRA-sponsored modeling contests, Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor, and other service-oriented activities within the model railroading community.

These categories and the TUs that can be earned for each will be discussed in greater detail below. The formal requirements

for the Volunteer Award and the required paper work can be found at NMRA.org. Click on the "Achievement Program" link, and then look for the "Volunteer" section. By the way, the NMRA web site is an excellent source of inspiration for volunteering opportunities!

Apples = Oranges = Eggplants

When I was documenting points for my Volunteer AP Award, I was struck by the various ways that points accrue. Some are time/duration based (like offices and committee positions); some are event-based (like



What keeps people from participating in the Achievement Program?

- ▶ **A bad experience in the past.**
 - ▶ Turkey Creek and the Division's MMRs are here to offer help and encouragement to succeed.
- ▶ **Belief that I can't scratch build.**
 - ▶ There is very little difference between scratch building and building most craftsman kits.
 - ▶ I had never scratch built a car but have now built 4 that I am very proud of, all because of the Achievement Program.
- ▶ **The requirements are too difficult to understand.**
 - ▶ Don't read things into the requirements that are not there!
 - ▶ Read the requirements carefully and think them through.

What keeps people from participating in the Achievement Program? (Continued)

- ▶ Entering models in Contests to be judged.
 - ▶ Merit Judging is non-competitive judging.
 - ▶ Models do not have to be entered in Division, Region or National Contests.
 - ▶ Judges will come to your home or merit judging can be arranged at division meetings etc.
- ▶ Perception that paperwork is difficult.
 - ▶ Paperwork is not as difficult as some make it out to be.
 - ▶ The Achievement Program is not about paperwork skills, it's about modeling and assistance can be provided as needed to eliminate this concern.

Judging

- ▶ For a model to be awarded a merit award, it must receive 87.5 points.
 - ▶ An important key to success is understanding your audience, the Judges.
 - ▶ Watch the two clinics on Judging.
 - ▶ Read the AP Judging Guidelines for Motive Power, Cars and Structures.
 - ▶ There are 6 Areas that models are judged on:
 - ▶ Construction 40 points max
 - ▶ Detail 20 points max
 - ▶ Conformity 25 points max
 - ▶ Finish and Lettering 25 points max
 - ▶ Scratch Built 15 points max
- ▶ The total available points are 125.
- ▶ 87.5 is 70% of the available points.

dates on the various forms denote the last complete update. Please use the versions you find here. All forms listed are the current forms and can be used.

On most forms, there is a category called "other". You can use several different examples to fulfill the requirements. We decided that adding "other" was better than trying to list every possible example as that would only lead to more confusion. If in doubt, contact your local (Division) AP manager as a first step.

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- Requirements
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Contests

A Celebration of Models, Photos & Crafts (Contests)

The NMRA has held contests for many years at National and Regional Conventions as well as many Divisional Meets. The Judged Model Contest is typically considered the prime event. However, excellent Photo, Pass, Arts & Crafts and Module Contests are often also included. The judging of the Model Contest is conducted by teams of experienced judges using a point scoring system providing a grade between zero and 125 pts. Five factors are judged including construction, conformity, detail, appearance and scratch built. The final point score is the basis for award ranking. Attaining a point score of 87.5 pts or 70% entitles the entrant to a Merit Award which counts towards Master Builder Awards in the NMRA Achievement Program.

All NMRA Model Contests follow this approach. However, there are some slight differences among the National Contest and the various Region and Division contests. To learn more about the National Model Contest and its other events, which we have dubbed collectively **A Celebration of Models, Photos & Crafts**, click on any of the topics to the right, including a direct link to the AP Judging Guidelines. For Region Contest events go to the [Regional Page](#).

Use the navigation section on the right to browse the various aspects of the Judged Model Contest, other contests and associated events.

- Beginner's Guide
- Achievement Program
- EduTrain
- Contests**
- Celebration of Models
- General Information
- Code of Conduct
- Eligibility & Entry
- Rules
- Guidelines
- Module Contest
- Awards
- Photo Guidelines
- Forms
- AP Judging Guidelines**
- National Convention Clinics
- Data Sheets



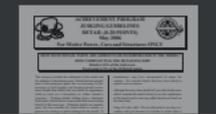
1



2



3



**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
JUDGING GUIDELINES
May 2006
For Motive Power, Cars
and Structures ONLY**

Prepared by Rick Maier, MMR - 31 January 1996. Revised by Pete Moffett, MMR/Rick Maier, MMR - 31 March 1997. Revised by Frank Koch - May 2006

The purpose of the AP is to recognize and reward good model building. The purpose of contest judging is to choose the winning models in each category. The primary purpose of these guidelines is to help the judges choose the winners. Their secondary purpose is to encourage consistency in scoring. The judges' aim should be to evaluate the models both to inform the modelers of their success and to help them to improve their modeling skills.

The key questions to be answered in judging are:
1. What did the modeler try to do?
2. How well did the modeler do it?

Most judging categories have aspects of both difficulty and quality. Scores go up as the modeler attempts more difficult modeling projects and methods. Scores also go up as the modeler is more successful with the chosen project and methods. The highest scores go to the most successful results with the most difficult modeling projects and methods. Guidelines for the categories include tables with suggested scoring ranges to help in weighing the two aspects and achieving consistency. Judging is basically positive in that points are awarded for what has been done, rather than subtracting for shortcomings compared to a theoretical perfect model. But, in practice, judging requires striking a balance between the model's good points and the model's flaws, or between what has been done and what was left undone.

Your main sources of information are the entry form and the model itself. Read the write-up for the category you are

capable of better, but you must judge only what is before you. Whether it is the best or worst that a modeler has ever done is irrelevant.

Judges are divided into teams of two or three, with each team assigned to judge one category (construction, detail, conformity, finish & lettering or scratchbuilding) across all classes (locomotives, cars, structures, etc.). Judge one class at a time (all the steam locomotives, for example, before moving to diesels). Write preliminary scores on scratch paper for the whole class. If there are differences of opinion, discuss why each judge thinks the way they do before averaging or otherwise agreeing on a score. If there is a wide range of opinion, one judge may be seeing things that the others do not. When you are satisfied with the scores for the class, transfer them to the entry forms.

Judge's comment sheets should be used in all NMRA events. Comments by judges should explain unusual

Judging

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 - ▶ Conformity 25 points max
 - ▶ Finish and Lettering 25 points max
 - ▶ Scratch Built 15 points max
- ▶ **The total available points are 125.**
- ▶ **87.5 is 70% of the available points.**
- ▶ **Judges will provide feedback to help you become a better modeler.**

Paperwork

- ▶ Paperwork varies with different Achievement Awards.
 - ▶ All necessary AP Forms are available for downloading on the NMRA website AP tab under Forms.
 - ▶ All necessary Judging Forms are available for downloading on the NMRA website Contests tab under Forms.
- ▶ Models being judged for a merit award generally require 3 forms:
 - ▶ Contest Entry Form #901
 - ▶ Model Contest Judge's Score Sheet #902
 - ▶ The Appropriate Achievement Program Evaluation Form
- ▶ Example paperwork from my Grandson Sam.

Evaluation Forms

- 2019 Evaluation Form - Master Builder - Motive Power: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Evaluation Form - Master Builder - Cars: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Evaluation Form - Master Builder - Structures: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Evaluation Form - Master Builder - Scenery: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Evaluation Form - Master Builder - Prototype Models: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Evaluation Form - Master Railroad Engineer - Civil: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)

Statement of Qualification forms:

Master Achievement

- 2019 Statement of Qualification - Master Model Railroader®: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)

Railroad Equipment:

- 2019 Statement of Qualification - Master Builder Motive Power: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Statement of Qualification - Master Builder Cars: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)

Railroad Setting:

- 2019 Statement of Qualification - Master Builder Structures: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)
- 2019 Statement of Qualification - Master Builder Scenery: [\(PDF\)](#)[\(DOC\)](#)

Paperwork

- ▶ Paperwork varies with different Achievement Awards.
 - ▶ All necessary AP Forms are available for downloading on the NMRA website AP tab under Forms.
 - ▶ All necessary Judging Forms are available for downloading on the NMRA website Contests tab under Forms.
- ▶ Models being judged for a merit award generally require 3 forms:
 - ▶ Contest Entry Form #901
 - ▶ Model Contest Judge's Score Sheet #902
 - ▶ The Appropriate Achievement Program Evaluation Form
- ▶ Example paperwork from my Grandson Sam.

Forms

1. Printable Forms - Listed below are the printable forms for contests. These are in Acrobat PDF format. Be sure to throw outdated copies away and always use the latest forms!

- A. [Contest Entry Form #901](#) (Updated 8/22/2020)
- B. [Module Contest Entry Form #901b](#) (Print on Yellow Paper)
- C. [Module Contest Identification Form J](#) (Print on Yellow Paper)
- D. [Model Contest Judge's Score Sheet #902](#)
- E. People's Choice Awards Ballot #904 (handed out during the convention)

2. Help with Contest Forms

Since paperwork seems to be the biggest complaint from most people entering model contests, or used as the most frequent excuse for not entering the contest, there now is help. If you are concerned about your paperwork and whether you have provided sufficient information for the judges, you can now get your model write up reviewed in advance. The National Contest Staff will review your paperwork and provide guidance on how to improve your submission. If you want to take advantage of this service you can send your paperwork to me, the [National Contest Chairman](#), and I will forward it to the committee. Your paperwork will be personally reviewed by one of the members and you will be provided with specific comments and recommendations. If you can submit your paperwork in digital format, word processing or text files, it will greatly speed up the process. If you send a hard copy, please send a COPY, not the original. And please don't wait until the last minute to get your paperwork submitted.

[EduTrain](#)[Contests](#)[Celebration of Models](#)[General Information](#)[Code of Conduct](#)[Eligibility & Entry](#)[Rules](#)[Guidelines](#)[Module Contest](#)[Awards](#)[Photo Guidelines](#)[Forms](#)[AP Judging Guidelines](#)[National Convention Clinics](#)[Data Sheets](#)[Division Success Kit](#)[Estate Planning](#)[Legacy Data Sheets](#)[NMRA Videos](#)[NMRA @ Home](#)[Special Interest Groups \(SIG\)](#)

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NMRA NATIONAL CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NMRA Form #901 Rev 1, 10/27/2019. All previous forms obsolete
Please Print All Information

Entry No.

ENTRANT / MODELER

Name: Sam Ninemire Group Name: _____ Age (if<30): 13
Address: 2733 SW Golden Eagle Rd. City: Lee's Summit NMRA #: 170205
State/Province: Missouri Zip/Postal Code: 64082 Country: USA New Modeler: No
Phone: (816) - 246 -1967 Cell Phone: (816) - 905 - 4631 Email: sam.ninemire@icloud.com Region: Mid-Continent

CONTEST EVENTS

MODEL CONTEST

(Judged)

Classification

Scratch Built

Kit Built

Category

Steam Locomotive

Diesel & Other Loco

Traction

Passenger Car

Freight Car

Caboose

Non-Revenue Car

Structure

MODEL SHOWCASE

(Display only, all categories)

Entrv

PHOTO CONTEST

(Judged)

Model, B&W Print

Model, Color Print

Prototype, B&W Print

Prototype, Color Print

Working on the Railroad Print

RAILROAD PASS CONTEST

(Judged)

Entrv

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

(Popular vote - Direct entry)

Model

Favorite Train

Locomotive*

Rolling Stock*

Caboose

Structure

Diesel

Arts & Crafts

General

Needlework

Railroadiana

Photo (B&W or Color)

Model Print

Prototype Print

Special Award Categories

Photo Match

Thumbs Award

Note - Judged entries are also eligible to be chosen for People's Choice Awards
*- Loco includes steam, diesel & traction; Rolling stk. includes, freight, pass & non-rev.

ENTRY NAME: S. G. Nelson General Store and Post Office

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. First place or Gold Award winners from previous NMRA National Contests are not eligible.
2. This Entry Form (# 901) must be completed for all entries. Judge's Score Sheets (# 902 for Model Contest and # 903 for Module Contest) must also be completed for each entry.
3. Supplemental information, including plans, photos and other supporting documentation may be submitted. This should be organized in order by judging factor (Construction, Detail, Conformity, Finish & Lettering and Scratchbuilt). However, judges are under no obligation to review this material, and the Contest Chairman may limit this information.
4. The Contest Chairman reserves the right to determine how to display entries. Removal of entries from the Contest Room without approval of the Contest Chairman and presentation of the claim check is prohibited.
5. All entries must have a declared value. (See below.)
6. After filling out this Entry Form and the Judge's Score Sheet, if applicable, return both to the Contest Staff who will provide an Entry no. for the Entry Form, Judges Scoring Sheet, Claim Check and Entry Identification Tag. Place entry with Identification Tag attached in the designated location. Retain the Claim Check, which must be signed and presented to pick up the entry at the end of the contest.
7. I hereby certify that this entry is entirely my/our own work or that the original exposure was made by me. I also hereby release the NMRA and all persons connected with this Contest from any liability due to damage to or loss of the entry greater than that covered by the NMRA insurance coverage.
8. I hereby grant the NMRA photo reproduction rights for publication of this entry in NMRA Magazine or any other publication of the NMRA.

Entrant / Modeler Signature: _____

Proxy Signature: _____

Entry Value
\$

NMRA CONTEST CLAIM CHECK

I hereby certify that entry # _____ entered the Contest and has been returned to me in satisfactory condition

Entrant / Modeler / Proxy Signature: _____



NMRA NATIONAL CONTEST JUDGING FORM

NMRA Form #902 Rev. E, 8/16/11 All previous forms obsolete. Please print.

Entry Name: S. G. Nelson General Store and Post Office

Entry No.

1. CONSTRUCTION (Maximum 40 points) (*May qualify for AP scratch built) Points Awarded

Model Basis – Select the description that best applies to your model

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch Built (Complete) – SB struc. + details (>90%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kit Bash– Multi kits/ comm. parts assem. not per kit plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch Built (Partial) – SB struc.; comm. details (<90%) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kit Built – Per kit plan (> 90%); few modifications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mod. Comm. – Shells, frame, struc. or major parts (>50%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mod. RTR – Some mod. (<20%) to finished comm. model |

Name kit or major comm. parts & manufacturer Carolina Craftsman Kits CCK18164

Construction Techniques – Select all methods & materials that apply to your model

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drew own plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Followed construc. article | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut & fit wood | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soldered metal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Used proto/comm. plans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut & fit metal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut & fit cardstock | <input type="checkbox"/> Made patterns |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Used kit plans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut & fit plastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut & fit glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Made molds |

Describe in detail how model was built, its complexity and the methods used:

This was built from the parts supplied in this poorly cut and documented kit. I added a Picture Interior (Post office from the internet and the store from City Classics), scratch-built downspouts and gutters along with an electric meter, LED lighting, Varying window shades (appropriate to the post office or the store), Floor joists under front porch and step (2 feet apart), and Plumbing vent pipes. I drew my own plans for the Exterior Coal Box which was scratch-built from individual wood boards. I also drew my own plans and scratch-built the back steps from scrap wood.

Interior was brush painted dark gray. The Floor, Exterior walls, Steps, and Porch were stained by my own mix of Floquil paints and DioSol. The Exterior walls were stained and then dry brushed with white paint and the windows were spray painted white before being dry brushed with my stain mix. Roof was made from medical paper tape and was brush painted "Weathered Black." Galvanized metal gutters and downspouts. Dark Gray/Black Coal Box. I custom made the foundation with MicroMark Stone Building Paper and Fabricated my own custom made signs. I braced and shaped the roof to make it removable without obstructing other areas of the model. I used various types of adhesive including Canopy Glue, white glue, yellow glue, & super glue.

2. DETAIL (Maximum 20 points) Points Awarded

Describe complexity, difficulty, refinement & quantity of detail parts added. Identify all commercial parts.

I added:

- Plumbing Vent Pipes
- Flashing around the chimneys and Tar around the Plumbing Vent Pipes
- Hinges on the screen door
- Woodland Scenics Dog and JL Innovative Design RC Cola Machine
- Extra concrete filler between foundation and chimney
- Nail holes & Floor joists on the porch and step (2 feet apart)
- Lettering that is appropriate to Post Office/Store signs I found on the internet
- Brass door handles
- Scratchbuilt Coal Box
- Scratchbuilt Gutters & Downspouts
- Scratchbuilt Electric Meter
- Homemade Window shades appropriate to Store/Post Office (Venetian blinds made by City Classics)

3. CONFORMITY (Maximum 25 points) Points Awarded

Describe prototype design. Include prototype documentation (beyond what may have been supplied in kit).

Lettering font was typical to rural post offices and stores according to pictures I found on the Internet. Overall building appearance is typical of rural post offices and stores found throughout West Virginia. Stairs were slightly crooked to give it an older looking appearance.

4. FINISH & LETTERING (Maximum 25 points) Points Awarded

- Weathered Hand Lettered Decals Dry Transfers Spray Airbrush Dry brush Stain

Non-Weathered - Describe methods & materials.

Interior was spray painted gray, The Exterior walls were stained with my custom mix of stain and then dry brushed white and the windows were spray painted white and then dry brushed with my stain mix. Chimney was painted red with Floquil paints with thinned light gray for mortar. I used pan pastels for the weathering and added dark gray/black pan pastels at the top of the chimney to simulate soot from burning coal. Tar sealer for vent pipes was done with Dark gray/Black heavy body acrylic paint. Exterior Light fixtures were painted green on the caps and have a yellow dot in the middle to simulate a light bulb. Galvanized metal gutters and downspouts were brush painted & Dark Gray/Black Coal Box was stained.

5. SCRATCH BUILT (Maximum 15 points) - Kit Built Classification Points Awarded

List all parts scratch built; note special refinements. I scratch built the Plumbing Vent pipes from styrene and the back steps from wood (I drew plans for them). I built the gutters from styrene/plastic and the downspouts from Brass wire. I drew plans for the coal box which was scratch built from individual wood boards. I made my own custom signs with a text editor. An Electric meter was also added, made from styrene plastic and brass wire.

6. TOTAL POINTS (Staff only) - Final Score

Tabulated by _____ Verified by _____



**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
 MASTER BUILDER STRUCTURES
 EVALUATION FORM
 FEBRUARY 2019**



PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO A COMPLETED STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (SOQ) FORM.

Member's Name: Sam Ninemire NMRA #: 170205 Expiration: 12-31-21

Date Submitted: _____ Region: Mid-Continent Division: Turkey Creek

Model: S.G. Nelson General Store and Post Office

The undersigned judges certify that the model of a structure described above, built by the above named NMRA member, has been personally examined by two or more evaluators appointed by the Region AP Chair; that the model is either scratchbuilt or is super-detailed (as defined in the NMRA AP Regulations "DEFINITIONS" Section); is operational and meets all applicable NMRA Standards; has earned a minimum score of 87.5 points; and has been awarded a Merit Award.

MERIT AWARD SCORING SCHEDULE

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	POINTS	SCORE
CONSTRUCTION	Workmanship	0-40	
DETAIL	Quality & Amount	0-20	
CONFORMITY	Prototype Practice	0-25	
FINISH & LETTERING	General Appearance	0-25	
SCRATCHBUILT	Amount of Parts Built by the Modeler	0-15	
		Total	

NOTE

Exempted Parts: light bulbs, electronics, basic wood, metal and plastic shapes. The above commercial parts may be used on a model and the model is still considered to be scratchbuilt.

EVALUATOR'S NAME	SIGNATURE	NMRA #

REGIONAL AP CHAIR: _____ REGION: _____ DATE: _____

Where do I go from here?

- ▶ Take a look at the Golden Spike Award.
 - ▶ While not an actual AP category, its requirements are structured along the same lines as the AP Certificates.
 - ▶ If you have a layout, you have likely already met or are close to meeting the requirements.
 - ▶ Earning the Golden Spike Award will get you started and build confidence.
 - ▶ A link to the requirements can be found on the AP website introduction page.



**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD
APPLICATION FORM
FEBRUARY 2019**

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR DIVISION OR REGION AP MANAGER.

Member Name: _____ NMRA#: _____ Expiration: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ Country: _____ Zip/Post Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____ Division: _____

- The Golden Spike Award (GSA) will be awarded to any NMRA member who completes the Qualifications Checklist, obtains the necessary signatures (Division AP Manager or some local NMRA member approved by the Division AP Manager), and if the applicant does not already hold MMR status.
- The GSA will be administered by the Division and Region AP Managers.
- AP requirements and definitions apply for scratch building and super-detailing.
- The Division AP Manager will submit the signed form to the Region AP Manager who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.
- The Region AP Manager will then forward the completed form to the National AP Manager so that an announcement can be made in the NMRA Magazine.

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

- Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

- Construct a minimum of eight square feet of model railroad or module(s) including scenery in any scale.
- Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

- Three types of track are required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial track may be used.
- All installed track must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command or other form of control).
- Provide any one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Region AP Manager: _____ Region: _____

Where do I go from here? (Continued)

- ▶ **Take a look at the requirements for Association Volunteer.**
 - ▶ We have a Regional Convention in KC this summer which is a great opportunity to earn credits. The sooner you commit to help the sooner you will begin earning credits.
 - ▶ It is also a great opportunity to support your Division and Region.
- ▶ **Take a look at the requirements for Model Railroad Author.**
 - ▶ Document your work building a model for a Merit Award and prepare an article for the Lightning Slinger. It is a two for one.
 - ▶ Prepare an article on any model railroad subject for the Lightning Slinger, the Region's Caboose Kibitzer, or the NMRA Magazine.
- ▶ **Consider Participating in the Achievement Program.**
 - ▶ You will be surprised with how much you have already done.
 - ▶ You will be surprised at what you can do that you thought you couldn't.
 - ▶ Overcoming inertia and getting started is the hardest part.
 - ▶ Have Fun becoming a better modeler and enjoy your hobby more.

Thank you



Questions?