

Convention Celebration Room Categories

Here are the Celebration Room categories available for submission and the required forms that need to be included with each submission.

1. For models in this section submit NMRA Forms 901, 902 and supplemental information.

- Steam Locomotives
- Diesel and other locomotives
- Traction
- Passenger Cars
- Freight Cars
- Cabooses
- Non-Revenue Cars
- Structures
 - o On-line
 - o Off-line
- Display
 - o On-lin
 - o Off-line

(Note that scenery guidelines apply:

<https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/achievement/pdf/2019-sceneval.pdf>

Note: Any model (excluding displays/dioramas) in Section 1, above, earning 87½ points during the model contest judging will automatically be awarded the appropriate AP credit.

2. Railroad Pass Form 901, ranking by judges

3. Photography (Form 901, special photography guidelines apply :

<https://nmra.org/national-photo-contest-judging-guidelines>

- Model B&W Print
- Model Color Print
- Prototype B&W Print
- Prototype Color Print
- Working on the Railroad

Note: “Working on the Railroad” must depict people (“Boots on the Ground”) working on railroad-related settings (e.g., in a yard, handling track, throwing a switch, etc.). A train on a track without visible individuals should be submitted in the Prototype B&W print or Prototype Color Print categories

4. Individual or Group Module (Module Form 901b and Module Form J)
Modules are judged by a group of judges who go to the modules. Modules are not evaluated for a merit award, thus modules are not part of the Judged Model contest. However, a model (structure, car, motive power) on a module can be removed and separately judged for merit in the Judged Model contest, but separate paperwork (Forms 901, 902, and supplemental information must be provided for the judges in the Judged Model contest.

5. Popular Vote (People’s Choice) Categories by Convention Attendees (Form 901 required for all – Judged items, #1, above)
 - a. Rail Related
 - Favorite Train
 - Locomotives (all types)
 - Rolling Stock (all types)
 - Caboose
 - Structures
 - Display
 - Module
 - Thumbs (Humorous)
 - Photo Match Model
 - A special TLR popular vote category is posted for each convention. See details on the TLR Website under the “Celebration Room” tab.
 - b. Non-Rail Related (need not be prepared now for this Celebration event. Items made earlier than the 2019-2021 period remain eligible).
 - General
 - Needlework
 - Railroadiana
 - c. Photographs
 - Model Print
 - Color Print

There will be Best of Show selected from the following categories:

- Merit Award-Evaluated entries;
- Judged Photography Entries;
- Popular Vote Rail Entries;
- Arts and Crafts (i.e., Non-Rail) Entries;

First place winners in the categories will be awarded plaques. Second and Third Place winners in the categories will receive certificates. Novices (i.e., people who are participating the Celebration Room for the first time), will be acknowledged at the scheduled Banquet.

One aspect of the TLR conventions that we are seeking is greater participation in the Arts and Crafts categories. These categories may be railroad or train related; however, this is not required. This also serves to encourage participation by the non-railroader members of the family – spouses and children are encouraged to submit entries. Photographs are not allowed as entries in the Arts and Crafts categories. Instead, they should be submitted in one of the Photography subcategories.

During the joint convention held in Lacrosse, WI in 2019, confusion among judges arose because it was not clear from people making submissions what their intent was for the submission. For example, some individuals were interested in submitting a model in the “Modeler’s Showcase” and did not want it evaluated by judges. In some cases, these models were unnecessarily evaluated by the judges taking time for evaluation of other entries. To eliminate this issue, we have developed the “Thousand Lakes Region Celebration Room Entry Form Supplement: Entrant’s Intent Form.” This form needs to be completed for each NMRA Form 901. It will help to make sure entries are placed in the Celebration Room and assist in the evaluation of each submission.