

MER Contest Room Rules

Effective May 2026

Contests available

Model Contest, Module Contest, Popular Vote Contest. The model contest includes categories for Steam Locomotive, Diesel Locomotive, Traction, Freight Car, Passenger Car, Non-Revenue (MoW) Car, Caboose, On-Line Structure, Off-Line Structure, On-Line Display, and Off-Line Display. The Module Contests categories allow individual modules or a group of modules, space available*. The Popular Vote Contest allows contest room visitors to vote for their choice of any model/module and complete train.

Forms

The contest room staff encourage the use of the Word Forms 901-MER & 902-MER, available on the MER website. Forms will be available at the contest room registration desk. NMRA National Contest forms may be used; however, these forms do include required data to determine some of the MER Special Awards. Models entered using NMRA National forms will not be considered for those Special Awards.

Hours

Thursday 6PM – 9PM

Friday 9AM – 9PM, excluding lunch and dinner

Saturday Closed for evaluation, contest scoring tabulation, banquet preparations and model pickup

Sunday 9AM – 12PM or all entries picked up

Pre-Registration

Pre-Registration is available by emailing the completed forms to the MER Contest Chairman (contests@mer-nmra.com). Modelers will receive their numbered entry form upon model submittal at the contest room.

Registration / Model Entry

Registration and model entry for pre-registered models will be available during contest room hours Thursday & Friday.

Late Registration

Available only with prior approval of the MER Contest Chairman **AND** model received prior to agreed deadline.

Viewing

Contest room entries will be available for viewing during contest room hours.

Awards

Awards will be presented to the three highest evaluated models in each category for all three contests. Awards will be presented for the MER Special Awards as described on the MER website.

Model Pickup

Models will be available for pickup upon completion of contest evaluation scoring. Modelers/proxy **MUST** present a signed claim check (bottom of Form 901).

* space available – Please contact MER Contest Chairman and host division for desired space availability.