



HOn3 T-trak



N Free-mo

AP UPDATE: MODULE CERTIFICATE



HO Free-mo



N-trak



MODULAR RAILROADING CERTIFICATE

AS A GENERAL OVERVIEW:

THIS IS THE NEWEST CERTIFICATE IN MANY YEARS. IT ACKNOWLEDGES THE GROWTH OF MODULE RAILROADING AS AN EXPRESSION OF MODEL RAILROADING. IT COVERS ALL MODULE STANDARDS (T-TRAK, FREE-MO, N-TRAK, ETC.). IT ALSO COVERS ALL SCALES. THE IMPORTANT THINGS ARE CONFORMANCE TO A STANDARD, QUALITY OF WORK, AND PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE MODULES.



1. CONSTRUCT:



COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF THREE
OPERABLE MODULES CONFORMING TO
AN ESTABLISHED STANDARD

2. MINIMUM SIZE:

THERE IS A MINIMUM (TOTAL) SIZE REQUIREMENT BASED ON SCALE -

44 SQFT O SCALE

32 SQFT S SCALE

24 SQFT HO SCALE = 8 SINGLES

12 SQFT N SCALE = 12 SINGLES

9 SQFT Z SCALE

5 SQFT T SCALE



3. MUST INCLUDE ON EACH:

EACH MODULE MUST INCLUDE –

A. ELECTRICAL AND PHYSICAL COMPLIANCE TO THE APPROPRIATE STANDARD

B. OPERATIONAL TRACKWORK





3. MUST INCLUDE ON EACH:

EACH MODULE MUST INCLUDE –

C. RELIABLE MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL OPERATION

D. COMPLETED SCENERY AND, IF APPROPRIATE, BACK DROP



4. DISPLAY:

ALL MODULES MUST BE DISPLAYED AND SUCCESSFULLY OPERATED AT A MINIMUM OF THREE SEPARATE PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS OR NMRA SANCTIONED



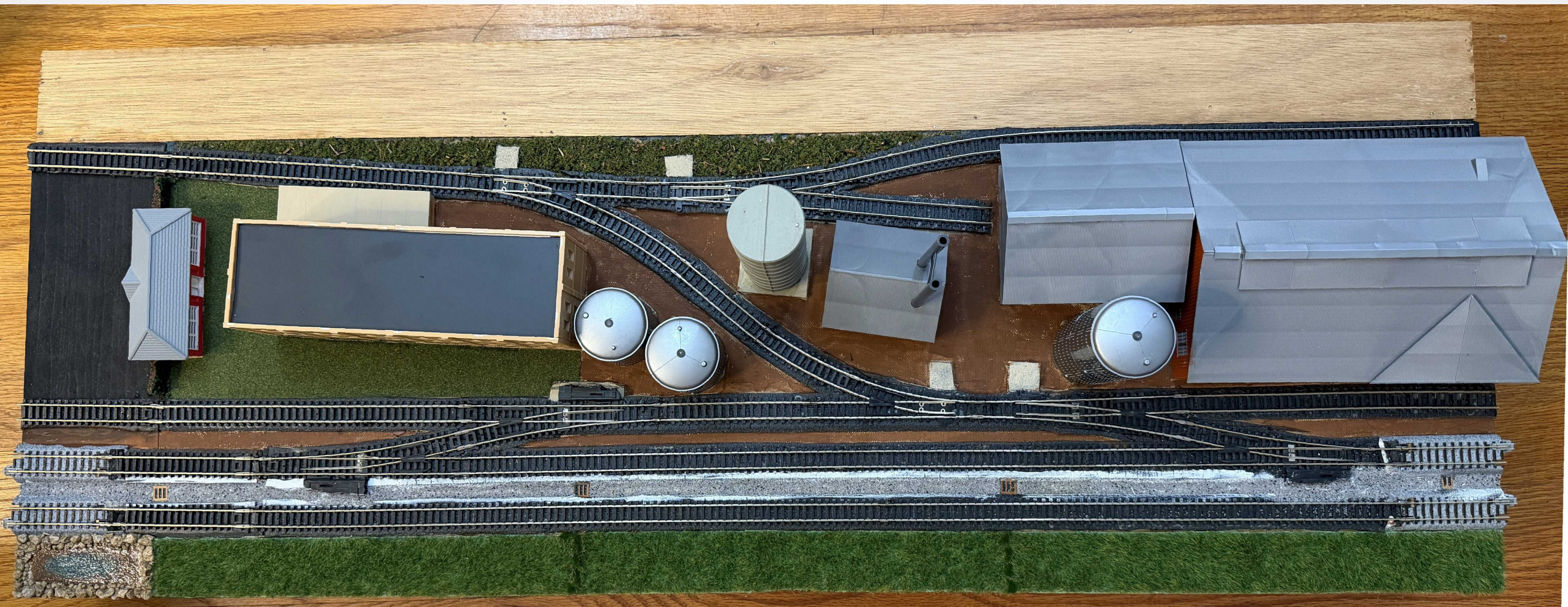
5. MERIT REQUIREMENTS:

EACH INDIVIDUAL MODULE MUST EARN 87.5 OUT OF 125 EVALUATION POINTS BASED ON THE EVALUATION MATRIX. EACH MODULE IS CONSIDERED AS A STAND ALONE EFFORT.

A. 25 POINTS MAX – CONSTRUCTION – QUALITY OF FRAMING, RIGIDITY, SURFACE PREP OF THE BASIC STRUCTURE, DURABILITY FOR TRANSPORT, OVERALL QUALITY OF WORKMANSHIP

B. 30 POINTS MAX – TRACKWORK, STANDARDS COMPLIANCE & OPERATION – TRACK ALIGNMENT & GEOMETRY, TURNOUT (IF PRESENT) PERFORMANCE, INTERFACE COMPLIANCE, SMOOTHNESS OF OPERATION, USE OF FLEX OR HAND LAID TRACK BEYOND REQUIRED INTERFACES

5 B -



5. MERIT REQUIREMENTS:

C. 20 POINTS MAX – ELECTRICAL & CONTROL – POWER DISTRIBUTION, GOOD WIRING PRACTICE, CONFORMING CONNECTORS, STRAIN RELIEF, AUXILIARY LIGHTING / ANIMATION (ELECTRICAL PART), SENSORS & CONTROL LOGIC, SOUND, RELIABILITY

D. 20 POINTS MAX – SCENERY – REALISTIC TERRAIN INTEGRATION, SHAPING, DRAINAGE, SLOPES, LANDFORMS, BALLAST, GROUND COVER, VEGETATION, EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OF SEAMS ACROSS MULTIPLE THEMED MODULES

5. MERIT REQUIREMENTS:

E. 20 POINTS MAX – STRUCTURES, DETAIL & ANIMATION – QUALITY OF STRUCTURES, PLACEMENT, DURABILITY, AND INTEGRATION INTO THE SCENERY. ANIMATION INCLUDES BUT NOT LIMITED TO MOTION, LIGHTS, SMOKE (INTENTIONAL), MOVING VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATE SOUND FOR THE SCENE. SCRATCH BUILT, KIT BASHED, AND MODIFIED ELEMENTS (NOT JUST RIGHT OUT OF A BOX) RECEIVE HIGHER CONSIDERATION.

F. 10 POINTS MAX – DOCUMENTATION & PUBLIC READINESS – PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION, CLARITY OF DOCUMENTATION, LABELING OF ITEMS AS NEEDED, EVIDENCE OF SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC EXHIBITION AND OPERATION

6. SOQ

MUST INCLUDE-

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF DESIGN INTENT, CONSTRUCTION METHODS, AND
OPERATIONAL PURPOSE

COPY OF THE APPLICABLE STANDARD (AS AN ATTACHMENT IF SUBMITTING DIGITALLY)

WIRING DIAGRAM OF EACH MODULE

MINIMUM OF 5 PHOTOS OF EACH MODULE

VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION (RECORD & VALIDATION FORM)

EVALUATION FORM SIGNED BY THREE QUALIFIED AP EVALUATORS

MODULE STANDARDS

NMRA – [HTTPS://WWW.NMRA.ORG/INTRODUCTION-LAYOUT-MODULES](https://www.nmra.org/introduction-layout-modules)

T-TRAK – [HTTPS://NTRAK.ORG/T-TRAK-STANDARDS](https://ntrak.org/t-trak-standards)

T-1-TRAK -

[HTTPS://T-TRAKCINCY.COM/TTRAK.1000000000/TTRAK.1000000000.HTM?AAO](https://t-trakcincy.com/ttrak.1000000000/ttrak.1000000000.htm?AAO)

N-TRAK – [HTTPS://NTRAK.ORG/NTRAK](https://ntrak.org/ntrak)

FREE-MO HO – [HTTPS://FREE-MO.ORG/STANDARD/](https://free-mo.org/standard/)

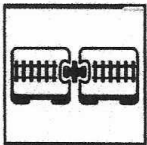
FREE-MO N – [HTTPS://NTRAK.ORG/FREE-MON](https://ntrak.org/free-mon)

NCAT - [HTTPS://NTRAK.ORG/NCAT](https://ntrak.org/ncat)

BEND-TRAK - [HTTP://BENDTRACK.COM/](http://bendtrack.com/)

ONE-TRAK - [HTTPS://NTRAK.ORG/ONETRAK](https://ntrak.org/onetrak)

S-MOD - [HTTPS://WWW.NASG.ORG/HOWTO/SMOD/INDEX.PHP](https://www.nasg.org/howto/smmod/index.php)



**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
MASTER BUILDER MODULAR RAILROADING
STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORM
JULY 2026**

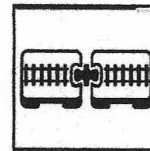
page 1 of 3

Member Name: _____ NMRA #: _____ Exp: _____
Street: _____ City: _____ State/Prov: _____
ZIP/PC: _____ Country: _____ NMRA Region: _____ Division: _____
Date Submitted: _____ E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

To qualify for this certificate, you must:

1. Construct and complete a minimum of three (3) operable modules conforming to an established modular standard (e.g., NMRA, T-TRAK, NTRAK, Free-mo, Free-moN, or similar).
2. The modules must have a minimum total size of 44 sf for O scale, 32 sf for S scale, 24 sf for HO scale, 12 sf for N scale, 9 sf for Z scale, and 5 sf for T scale. Minimum square feet required for other scales are based on the ratio between that scale and 24 sf in HO scale.
3. Each module must include:
 - a. Standards compliant electrical and physical interfaces at connection points (connections between the member's module(s) and adjacent modules of others adhering to the same standard).
 - b. Operational trackwork
 - c. Reliable mechanical and electrical performance
 - d. Complete scenery and backdrop if appropriate to the module standard used.
4. Modules must be displayed and operated successfully at a minimum of three (3) separate public exhibitions or NMRA-sanctioned events.
5. Merit Requirement: Each module must earn a minimum score of 87.5 points out of 125 using the Modular AP Merit Scoring Matrix. The evaluation considers each of the three (3) required modules as a stand-alone body of work, emphasizing conformance to the relevant standard, the integration of the scene depicted within the module, its reliability, and craftsmanship. Evaluation Criteria are:
 - a. Module Construction (25 points) - Quality of framing, rigidity, surface preparation, joinery, durability for transport, and overall workmanship.
 - b. Trackwork, Standards Compliance & Operation (30 points) - Alignment, geometry, turnout performance, standards compliance at interfaces, operational smoothness, and reliability under public operation. Mainline track conformance is critical as a failure to meet standards on this affects all attached modules. Use of flex track or hand-laid track beyond required interface sections is encouraged and rewarded.
 - c. Electrical Systems & Control (20 points) Power distribution, wiring practices, connector and wiring type choice, strain relief, lighting circuits, control logic, sensor systems, sound systems, and operational reliability across multiple setups.

SOQ

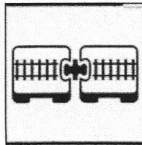


**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
MASTER BUILDER MODULAR RAILROADING
STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORM
JULY 2026**

page 2 of 3

- d. Scenery, Terrain & Scene Integration (20 points) - Realistic terrain shaping, drainage and slope, landform transitions, ballast application and blending, ground cover, vegetation, scenic textures, and effective treatment of module edges and seams, particularly across adjoining modules representing the same scene. For purposes of this certificate's Merit Requirement, scenery is evaluated on the overall effectiveness of the module as constructed to the applicable modular standard used (including standards, such as T-TRAK, that may depict non-prototypical or fantasy settings), and is not evaluated to the Scenery Achievement Program Merit standard unless separately submitted for Scenery certificate credit as described in Section A.
 - e. Structures, Details & Animation (20 points) - Quality, placement, provisions for durability, and integration of structures, bridges, roads, vehicles, and visual storytelling elements. Includes mechanical and electronic animation such as moving machinery, vehicles, smoke or steam effects, sound-equipped scenes, IR- or sensor-activated features, and other dynamic elements. Scratch-built, kit-bashed, or modified elements and well-integrated animation receive higher consideration.
 - f. Presentation, Documentation & Public Readiness (10 points) Professional appearance, clarity of documentation, educational labeling where appropriate, and evidence of successful public exhibition and operation.
3. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:
- ☐ Written description of design intent, construction methods, and operational purpose.
 - ☐ Copy of the standard to which the modules were constructed.
 - ☐ Wiring diagram for each module.
 - ☐ Minimum of five (5) color photographs of each module.
 - ☐ Verification of public exhibition (Record and Validation form).
 - ☐ Evaluation form signed by three (3) qualified AP evaluators.

RECORD & VALIDATION FORM



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM MASTER BUILDER MODULAR RAILROADING STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORM JULY 2026

page 3 of 3

	DESCRIPTION (Title, Scale, Size in Square Feet)	DATES EXHIBITED	VERIFIED BY	DATE	NMRA #
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Member Statement and Agreement:

I certify that I have completed all of the requirements for this Certificate of Achievement as listed above
and that I will agree to assist other members in this subject whenever possible, whether or not they are
participants in the Achievement Program.

☐ Check here if this is your first AP Certificate

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

Certification of Division Achievement Program Chair

As the NMRA Region Achievement Program Chair of the _____ division, _____ region, I
certify that I have examined this SOQ and, having compared it to the stated requirements for this certificate,
I am satisfied that the stated requirements have been met.

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

Certification of Region Achievement Program Chair

As the NMRA Region Achievement Program Chair of the _____ region, I certify that I have
examined this SOQ and, having compared it to the stated requirements for this certificate, I am satisfied that
the stated requirements have been met.

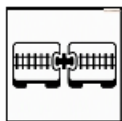
NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

Region Certificate #: _____

Approval by AP National Manager

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____

EVALUATION FORM



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM MASTER BUILDER MODULAR RAILROADING EVALUATION FORM JULY 2026

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO A COMPLETED STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (SOQ) FORM.
SEPARATE EVALUATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH OF THE THREE MODULES

Member's Name: _____ NMRA #: _____ Expiration: _____

Module Name: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____ Division: _____

The undersigned evaluators certify that the scenic area of model railroad, built by the above named NMRA member, has been personally examined by two or more evaluators appointed by the Region AP Chair, meets all applicable NMRA Standards, has earned a minimum score of 87.5 points, and has been awarded a Merit Award.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	POINTS	SCORE
MODULE CONSTRUCTION	Quality of framing, rigidity, surface preparation, joinery, durability for transport, and overall workmanship.	0-25	
TRACKWORK, STANDARDS COMPLIANCE & OPERATION	Alignment, geometry, turnout performance, standards compliance at interfaces, operational smoothness, and reliability under public operation.	0-30	
ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS & CONTROL	Power distribution, wiring practices, connector and wiring type choice, strain relief, lighting circuits, control logic, sensor systems, sound systems, and operational reliability across multiple setups.	0-20	
SCENERY, TERRAIN & SCENE INTEGRATION	Realistic terrain shaping, drainage and slope, landform transitions, ballast application and blending, ground cover, vegetation, scenic textures, and effective treatment of module edges and seams, particularly across adjoining modules representing the same scene.	0-20	
STRUCTURES, DETAILS & ANIMATION	Quality, placement, provisions for durability, and integration of structures, bridges, roads, vehicles, and visual storytelling elements. Includes mechanical and electronic animation.	0-20	
PRESENTATION, DOCUMENTATION & PUBLIC READINESS	Professional appearance, clarity of documentation, educational labeling where appropriate, and evidence of successful public exhibition and operation.	0-10	
		Total	

EVALUATOR'S NAME	SIGNATURE	NMRA #

REGION AP CHAIR: _____ REGION: _____ DATE: _____

NMRA WEB SITE

[NMRA Portal & Store](#) [Achievement Program](#) [Contests](#) [SIGs](#) [100% Clubs](#) [NMRA Archives](#) [Rail Pass](#) [Partnership Program](#)



[Member Log-In](#) | [Registration](#)



your portal to more fun in scale model railroading

[Home](#) [In The News](#) [Membership](#) [Education](#) [Standards](#) [Regions](#) [Events](#) [Fundraising](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#)



**GETTING
STARTED**
IN MODEL RAILROADING

**BECOME A MEMBER
JOIN THE NMRA TODAY!**

Donate today!
Every Gift Helps!



Welcome to the National Model Railroad Association

Please View 'In The News' For Current News And Information

NMRA WEB SITE

[NMRA Portal & Store](#) [Achievement Program](#) [Contests](#) [SIGs](#) [100% Clubs](#) [NMRA Archives](#) [Rail Pass](#) [Partnership Program](#)



[Member Log-In](#) | [Registration](#)



your portal to *more fun* in scale model railroading



[Home](#) [In The News](#) [Membership](#) [Education](#) [Standards](#) [Regions](#) [Events](#) [Fundraising](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#)

Education

NMRA Education Department

Education is central to the NMRA's mission and an essential component of our continued classification as 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization under the Internal Revenue Code. The various educational activities provided by the NMRA are overseen by the Education Department. These include such activities as maintaining the Beginners Guide section of the NMRA's website, the Achievement Program, the Contest Program, the EduTRAIN® program, the Modeling with the Masters® Program, and SIG (Special Interest Group) Program. Each of these programs is run by its own Chairperson within the Education Department.

But the educational role of the NMRA, its Regions, and Divisions also includes a multitude of other initiatives. The educational articles that appear in either print or in digital format in our Division/Region/National Publications; the educational booths that we man at Conventions and Train Meets; grassroots outreach efforts to youth groups, senior citizen groups, or beginning modelers; and our Division/Region/National websites are all further examples of our educational focus.

Major Educational Activities

[Beginners Guide](#)

[Beginner's Guide](#)
[Achievement Program](#)
[EduTrain](#)
[Contests](#)
[Estate Planning](#)
[Special Interest Groups \(SIG\)](#)

GET STARTED
WITH MODEL RAILROADING

JOIN NOW
BECOME AN NMRA MEMBER

NMRA WEB SITE

NMRA Portal & Store [Achievement Program](#) Contests SIGs 100% Clubs NMRA Archives Rail Pass Partnership Program



[Member Log-In](#) | [Registration](#)



your portal to *more fun* in scale model railroading



[Home](#) [In The News](#) [Membership](#) [Education](#) [Standards](#) [Regions](#) [Events](#) [Fundraising](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#)

Achievement Program

Introduction

The NMRA Achievement Program (AP) is a guide to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the mastery of each skill, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement. There are three groups of awards within the AP - the Golden Spike Award, the AP Certificates program, and the Master Model Railroader® Award. All awards earned in the Achievement Program are recognized in the NMRA Magazine.

Getting involved in the AP is incredibly easy - you just decide to do it! If you are not yet involved, to start you off on the right foot we suggest you contact your local division AP manager. Most divisions list that person in their contact list. Alternatively you can visit the [AP Staff Roster](#) page to find contact information for your Regional AP Manager or contact the National AP Manager.

The different awards in the program are described below.

Golden Spike Award

- [Beginner's Guide](#)
- [Achievement Program](#)
- [Master Model Railroader](#)
- [Categories](#)
- [Requirements](#)
- [Forms](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ["The Masters" Articles](#)
- [Definitions](#)
- [AP Awards](#)
- [AP Staff](#)
- [EduTrain](#)
- [Contests](#)
- [Estate Planning](#)
- [Special Interest Groups \(SIG\)](#)

NMRA WEB SITE

[NMRA Portal & Store](#) [Achievement Program](#) [Contests](#) [SIGs](#) [100% Clubs](#) [NMRA Archives](#) [Rail Pass](#) [Partnership Program](#)



[Member Log-In](#) | [Registration](#)



your portal to *more fun* in scale model railroading



[Home](#) [In The News](#) [Membership](#) [Education](#) [Standards](#) [Regions](#) [Events](#) [Fundraising](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#)

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 material 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



[Master Builder - Structures](#)

- [Beginner's Guide](#)
- [Achievement Program](#)
- [Master Model Railroader](#)
- [Categories](#)
- [Author](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Civil](#)
- [Dispatcher](#)
- [Electrical](#)
- [Modular Railroading](#)
- [Motive Power](#)
- [Official](#)
- [Prototype Models](#)
- [Scenery](#)
- [Structures](#)
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Requirements](#)
- [Forms](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

HAPPY RAILROADING!





