



**Great Train Show**  
**World's Greatest Hobby on Tour**  
**Dealer Application Packet**  
**www.greattrainshow.com**  
 PO Box 117, Oswego, IL 60543  
 bill@greattrainexpo.com



The **Great Train Show** is the nation's largest traveling model train show. The show is designed for the general public, modelers, hobbyists, families, and the just plain curious. Each show features hundreds of tables of trains and accessories for sale, huge operating exhibits, activities for kids, and more. Don't miss your chance to be part of these amazing shows!

The **World's Greatest Hobby on Tour** is a high-quality model railroad show designed to introduce the general public to model railroading. We target both consumers and die-hard modelers. The WGH on Tour features many exciting attractions for attendees including many of the industry's major manufactures, a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Riding Train, play area, operating model railroad layouts, product demonstrations, hobby shops, how-to seminars and much more.

### **2025/2026 Show Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Midwest Shows</b>		<b>Western Shows</b>	
October 04-05, 2025			Del Mar, CA	Del Mar Fairgrounds
October 25-26, 2025	Shakopee, MN	Canterbury Park		
November 29-30, 2025	Collinsville, IL	Gateway Center		
December 13-14, 2025			Pleasanton, CA	Alameda County Fairgrounds
January 06-07, 2026	Kansas City, MO	KCI Expo Center	Boise, ID	Expo Idaho
January 13-14, 2026	Columbus, OH	Ohio Expo Center & State Fair	Ridgefield, WA	Clark County Fairgrounds
January 20-21, 2026	Novi, MI	Suburban Collection Showplace	Puyallup, WA	Washington State Fairgrounds
January 27-28, 2026	Saint Charles, MO	Saint Charles Convention Center	Kennewick, WA	Benton County Fairgrounds
Jan 31 - Feb 01, 2026			Ventura, CA	Ventura County Fairgrounds
February 07-08, 2026	Indianapolis, IN	Indiana State Fairgrounds		
February 14-15, 2026	Xenia, OH	Greene County Fairgrounds	Costa Mesa, CA	OC Fair & Events Center
February 21-22, 2026	Girard, OH	Metroplex Expo Center	Vallejo, CA	Solano Co Fair & Event Center
Feb 28 - Mar 1, 2026			Sacramento, CA	Cal Expo
March 14-15, 2026	Fort Wayne, IN	Allen Co War Memorial Coliseum		
March 21-22, 2026	Des Moines, IA	Iowa Events Center		
March 28-29, 2026			Dallas, TX	Dallas Market Center <b>w/WGH</b>

**How to sign up:** The easiest and quickest way is to sign up online at [www.greattrainshow.com](http://www.greattrainshow.com). You can also fill out the application page in this document, sign it, and mail or scan-and-e-mail it to us. You'll receive a confirmation email or letter within a few days, and you'll receive the show information packet about 2-3 weeks prior to the show.

# TRAIN of THOUGHT NEWSLETTER

## GTS EXHIBITOR SPACE OPTIONS

There are three different space options available:

### 8' x 30" Table



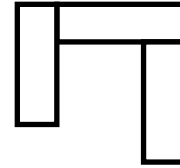
*Regular tables are normally set in rows, side-by-side with a shared exhibitor aisle.*

### 8' x 30" Wall Table



*Wall tables are **guaranteed** to be placed along a wall. Typically 2-3' of space is left behind the table.*

### 10 ½' x 10 ½' Booth



*Booths include 3 tables. The tables can be rearranged however you'd prefer, as long as they are kept within the 10 ½' x 10 ½' or within the 8 ½' x 8 ½' space in Springfield & East Moline.\**

\* If you purchase more than one booth, you have the combined space to rearrange however you prefer.

For example, if you purchase two booths, you have a combined space of 10 ½' x 10 ½' space or within the 8 ½' x 8 ½' space in Springfield & East Moline, IL, and a total of six tables.

**Permanent Table Subscription Option Explained:** A permanent table subscription is the only way to be assured of the same location at every show held at a particular venue.

If you do not have a permanent subscription for tables/booths, your location can be changed at any time. Temporary table locations are assigned a few weeks before each show, after all the permanent locations have been satisfied. While temporary exhibitors can request the same location, it is not guaranteed.

To reserve your space with a permanent table subscription, you can do it one of three easy ways:

- Just mark the box on the reservation form application.
- At the show, simply sign and return the table tag saying you want the space permanently.
- E-mail and let us know to change your location from temporary to permanent.

With a permanent table subscription, you will automatically be signed up for future shows in the venue and do not need to fill out an application. You will automatically receive a confirmation when the show schedule is announced each season.

There really is no downside in ordering space with a subscription, as you can always cancel those tables by providing at least 90 days' notice. You are never committed to more than one show at a time. We urge you to sign up for permanent table subscription to maintain your location, and reduce your workload for registering for shows, while only committing yourself for the next show.

**Saint Charles, MO – New Show Hours:** Every year, as the show grows, we max out the parking at the facility. The convention center will clear the last lot for our use, but I am also extending the show hours on Saturday to help spread out the crowd. The show will open at 9:00am as opposed to 10:00am on Saturday. This will give us almost a full extra turn of the parking lot, as well as additional selling time for you. Also, with the crowd a little more spread out, the aisle won't be so packed and people will get to see more and spend more time in booths and at the displays.

Please review both the GTS & World's Greatest Hobby Pages for specific information and signup forms.



## Seller Application - Great Train Show

Company/Trade Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Sales tax # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Items Sold: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options - Please Check One

- ☐ Check or Money Order is being mailed (make check payable to Giant Shows)
- ☐ I will pay in full at the show with cash, check, or money order. A credit card is required as a guarantee. Complete credit card information below.  
I authorize payment plus a late fee of \$10 per table or booth if exhibit fees are not paid by 10am on the Sunday of the show.
- ☐ I authorize payment on my credit card up to four weeks prior to the show. Complete credit card info below.  
A service charge of 3.00% will be applied to all credit card transactions.

Credit card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Show Location and Date</b> <i>You cannot mix tables and booths</i>	<b>8' Tables</b> <i>Write Qty</i>	<b>8' Wall Tables</b> <i>Write Qty</i>	<b>3-Table Booth</b> <i>Write Qty</i>	<b>Electric Drop**</b> <i>Y/N</i>	<b>Permanent Subscription***</b> <i>Y/N</i>
<b>Del Mar, CA – 10/04-05/2025</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Shakopee, MN – 10/25-26/2025</b>	@ \$89	@ \$99	@ \$235	@ \$75	
<b>Collinsville, IL – 11/29-30/2025</b>	@ \$89	@ \$99	@ \$235	@ \$75	
<b>Pleasanton, CA – 12/13-14/2025</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Kansas City, MO – 01/03-04/2026</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Boise, ID – 01/03-04/2026</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Columbus, OH – 01/10-11/2026</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Ridgefield, WA – 01/10-11/2026</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Novi, MI – 01/17-18/2026</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Puyallup, WA – 01/17-18/2026</b>	@ \$99	@ \$109	@ \$255	@ \$75	
<b>Saint Charles, MO – 01/24-25/2026</b>	@ \$99	@ \$109	@ \$255	@ \$75	
<b>Kennewick, WA – 01/24-25/2026</b>	@ \$89	@ \$99	@ \$235	@ \$75	
<b>Ventura, CA – 01/31-02/01/2026</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Indianapolis, IN – 02/07-08/2026</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Xenia, OH – 02/14-15/2026</b>	@ \$89	@ \$99	@ \$235	@ \$75	
<b>Costa Mesa, CA – 02/14-15/2026</b>	@ \$99	@ \$109	@ \$255	@ \$75	
<b>Girard, OH – 02/21-22/2026</b>	@ \$89	@ \$99	@ \$235	@ \$75	
<b>Vallejo, CA – 02/21-22/2026</b>	@ \$98	@ \$108	@ \$245	@ \$75	
<b>Sacramento, CA – 02/28-03/1/2026</b>	@ \$99	@ \$109	@ \$255	@ \$75	
<b>Fort Wayne, IN – 03/14-15/2026</b>	@ \$89	@ \$99	@ \$235	@ \$75	
<b>Des Moines, IA – 03/21-22/2026</b>	@ \$89	@ \$99	@ \$235	@ \$75	
<b>Dallas, TX – 03/28-29/2026</b>	@ \$99	@ \$109	@ \$255	@ \$75	
In conjunction with World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Show. Space ordered here will be in the Great Train Show section of the event. For space in the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour section of the show, please use the WGH form.					

\*\*Electric drops ordered less than two weeks in advance of the show will be charged at a rate of \$95 per drop.

\*\*\* If you sign up for a permanent space subscription, you will be automatically signed up for the same tables or booths at every show in the specific venue going forward until you notify us in writing that you are cancelling your permanent subscription.

**I certify I have read the terms and conditions on all pages and agree to abide by these terms and conditions.**

I reiterate that I agree to hold harmless Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc., its exhibition centers, and contractors, for any and all actions that may occur involving the show. I agree to indemnify Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. for any liability that may be caused or related to my participation under this contract.

Dealer/Exhibitor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Great Train Show Contact Information:**

**Bill Grove – 224/240-8035 - bill@greattrainexpo.com**  
[www.greattrainshow.com](http://www.greattrainshow.com) PO Box 117, Oswego, IL 60543



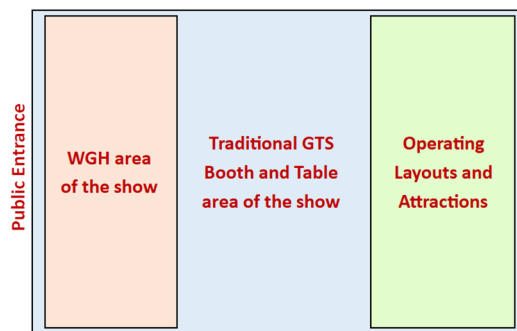
In 2025, I updated and streamlined the show format, and it will remain the same for 2026. The show will now look like a show within a show. The area at the very front of the hall will be designated for the traditional World's Greatest Hobby on Tour style of show. This will have the look and feel of past World's Greatest Hobby on Tour events with pipe and drape, skirted tables, etc. and is where the manufactures and dealers wishing to be in that section will be placed.

The remainder of the hall will have the look and feel of our traditional Great Train Shows. Standard tables, as well as our 3 table booths will be available for those selling, that do not need the options of the WGH portion of the

show. This will allow you to choose the best option for you. Because the area will not be separated, the public will be able to flow throughout the entire show, seeing all of the manufactures, sellers, layouts and attractions, and will allow us to bundle that into a very attractive package to help drive attendance.

Making these changes allows us to keep the show affordable for all of the various types of exhibitors. Since we do not have to pipe and drape the entire hall as we did in the past, we can offer a much lower price to those exhibitors who do not need it. This will also allow us to shift that money from operations to marketing to continue to drive large crowds.

I will also have information on a shipping program for those manufacturers interested later this summer.



## 2026 WGH Sign Up Form

**Sign up online or use this form to sign up for the WGH shows.**  
**If you prefer standard GTS space, please use the GTS form, or the online GTS form.**

Company/Trade Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Sales tax # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Items Sold: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options - Please Check One

- ☐ **Check or Money Order is included with this form** (make check payable to Giant Shows)  
☐ **I authorize payment on my credit card up to four weeks prior to the show.** Complete credit card info below.  
 A service charge of 3.00% will be applied to all credit card transactions.

Credit card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Items</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Dallas 03/28-29/2026</u>
<b>Booth(s) Large Business/Over \$1 million annual sales</b>	\$499	_____
<b>Booth(s) Small Business/Under \$1 million annual sales</b>	\$449	_____
<b>A) UNSKIRTED 8' x 30" Table</b> Up to three un-skirted tables will be provided with each booth ordered at no charge.	<b>FREE</b>	_____
<b>B) SKIRTING of ANY Table</b>	\$60	_____
<b>C) Electric Drop, 500 Watt (Dedicated Drop)</b>	\$150	_____
<b>D) 10' x 10' Carpet Square Set</b>	\$399	_____

**I certify I have read the terms and conditions on all pages and agree to abide by these terms and conditions.**

I reiterate that I agree to hold harmless Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc., its exhibition centers, and contractors, for any and all actions that may occur involving the show. I agree to indemnify Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. for any liability that may be caused or related to my participation under this contract.

Dealer/Exhibitor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Contact Information:**

**Bill Grove** – 224/240-8035 - [bill@greattrainexpo.com](mailto:bill@greattrainexpo.com)  
[www.greattrainshow.com](http://www.greattrainshow.com) PO Box 117, Oswego, IL 60543

**Exhibitor Terms and Conditions for shows operated by Giant Shows Inc.  
Terms and Conditions for Great Train Show & World's Greatest Hobby on Tour**

Dealer agrees to hold harmless, Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc., its exhibition centers, and contractors for any and all actions that may occur involving the show. Dealer agrees to indemnify Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. for any liability that may be caused by or related to their participation. This includes but is not limited to any liability caused by people the exhibitor provides exhibitor badges to, people exhibitor invites to the show, and any liability that may be caused if the exhibitor resells his tables to someone else. Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. retains the right to reject, eject, or prohibit any product or exhibit in whole or in part or to reject, or eject a Dealer or his representative(s) with or without giving cause. If cause is not given, Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. liability shall not exceed the return to the Dealer of the amount of license fee unearned at the time of ejection. Dealer agrees to collect and remit sales and use taxes in accordance with governmental regulations. Dealer acknowledges that Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. furnishes the name of each Dealer to the state or governmental unit(s) as legally required. Any controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to this license, or the breach thereof, shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association, and judgment upon the award rendered by the Arbitrator(s) may be entered in any Court having jurisdiction thereof. It is agreed that such arbitration would occur in Oswego, Illinois.

To obtain a license for the use of space at a Show or, sponsored by Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. the undersigned Dealer hereby agrees to all of the following terms, conditions and regulations:

**ACCEPTABLE MERCHANDISE:** Train, collectible toy and family-oriented hobby merchandise is ACCEPTABLE. Non hobby related or non-wholesome merchandise is not accepted. Final determination of acceptability shall be determined by Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Train Shows Inc. on site manager(s). Dealers may not sell raffle tickets or offer games of chance. Dealers agree to mark reproductions, repainted, and restored items as well as items with major reproduction parts. Dealer agrees to give a receipt when requested by a purchaser. This receipt must include the terms of the sale. Dealer agrees to cease all use of smoke-producing products if requested by show management.

**SHOW HOURS:** Each Dealer agrees to maintain his display space open to the public for the duration of the show. Dealers may not remove any merchandise from their area until the close of the show. Violation of this rule will lead to exclusion from future shows and may result in a claim for damages for negatively impacting the show's appearance.

In most cases, the show is open to the public from 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. In the event these hours change, you will be notified. Dealers must at least one hour prior to the show opening on the first day to retain their contracted show space. On Friday, the hall must be vacated at the end of setup. On Saturday, the hall must be vacated upon notification by the show managers at approximately 4:05 PM. All Dealers will be readmitted at 9:00am on Sunday and must vacate the hall by 9:00pm on Sunday. Normal setup hours are 11:00am to 6:00pm on Friday and 8:00am to 10:00am Saturday. Changes to the schedule will be announced well in advance of any show.

**CONTRACTED SPACE:** Purchase of ONE TABLE or ONE WALL TABLE equals 8 feet by 4 feet total contracted area (6 feet by 4 feet in East Moline), with a table surface of either 8 feet by 30 inches or 8 feet by 24 inches (6 feet by 30 inches or 6 feet by 24 inches in Springfield & East Moline). ONE BOOTH will equal 3 tables in a 10'6" x 10'6" area (8'6" x 8'6" in East Moline). The 3' exhibitor aisle between table rows must remain unobstructed unless dealer purchases both tables that border the aisle. Dealers/Exhibitors may not place anything in the aisles, between, behind, or at the end of tables so as to impede customer and dealer movement in the aisles. Dealers may not use tables or boards to extend the surface of the table. Table covers are required at all two-day shows.

**BADGES:** Dealer/Exhibitor badges are to be used only by those working at dealer tables or assembling and operating displays. Dealer/Exhibitor Badges must be worn at all times including set-up, show hours and tear-down. Only persons with Dealer/Exhibitor Badges will be allowed in the hall during set-up. Badges are not to be given to any person for the purpose of shopping during non-public hours, or to access the show early. Violations of this rule will lead to exclusion from future shows and may result in a claim for damages for negatively impacting the show's security.

**CREDIT CARD CHARGES:** A service charge of 3.00% will be applied to all credit card transactions.

**CANCELLATIONS:** For nonpermanent spaces cancellations received more than 90 days in advance of a two-day show or more than 30 days in advance of a one-day show will receive a full refund. Cancellations within 90 days of a two-day show or within 30 days of a one-day show will receive no refund and if guaranteed to a credit card, credit card will be charged when space is cancelled. Space guaranteed to a credit card, where the dealer does not pay at the show, will be charged immediately after the show and will include a late fee of \$10.00 per table/\$25.00 per booth. Dealers/Exhibitors may resell their space to someone else, but they remain responsible for all elements of this dealer contract. For permanent spaces cancellations do not apply but space may be resold.

**DEALER SPACE:** Dealer space is sold two ways:

1. **Permanent exhibit space subscription** indicates that Great Train Show and Giant Shows Inc. will make its best effort to provide the Dealer with the same location at a particular venue, in a particular hall or building, for a particular brand for every show. Dealers only need to sign up once and this agreement will remain in effect until terminated by one of the parties. Dealers will have purchased the same location at every show held in a particular venue. If the permanent location cannot be provided, the Dealer will have the option to cancel at no charge. In order to terminate this subscription, written notice is required to be given by either party 90 days in advance of the show. Great Train Show and Giant Shows Inc. will advise Dealers of shows, price, and other policy changes at least 120 days in advance of any show. This is the only way to receive the same location at every show. Permanent exhibit space cannot be cancelled but may be resold by a Dealer to another Dealer of their choice at a price they determine. Any resold tables must still follow all the rules and regulations of the show.

2. **Non-Permanent Exhibit space** will provide Dealers with a location on a show-by-show basis subject to availability. Locations will change for nonpermanent Dealers/Exhibitors based upon the needs of permanent Dealers/Exhibitors and other nonpermanent Dealers/Exhibitors.

**OVERNIGHT SECURITY:** Security service or guards are sometimes on duty starting at the end of exhibitor setup during closed hours. Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. assumes no responsibility for any dealer loss. We recommend that you cover your display before leaving the hall. When you leave the hall, take all your personal belongings with you. NO ONE is admitted into the hall under any circumstances after the Train Show Management Staff leaves the facility.

**PARKING:** Any parking fees required by the facility are the responsibility of the Dealer/Exhibitor.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel reservations are the responsibility of all Dealers. All Dealers/Exhibitors are responsible for making their own reservations.

**SEVERABILITY:** If any term of this contract or its application is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this contract and any other application will not be affected.

**NO WAIVER:** The failure to insist upon the strict performance of this contract does not constitute a waiver of Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc.'s rights hereunder. No provision of this agreement may be deemed to have been waived by Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc. unless the waiver is in writing signed by an officer of Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:** Upon acceptance of this contract by Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc., a written confirmation will be mailed or emailed to the dealer. If the dealer does not receive a confirmation, he/she should contact Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Train Shows Inc., to determine the status of the contract.

**Great Train Show Contact Information &  
World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Contact Information:  
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