



Great Train Show Layout/Non Profit Application Packet

www.greattrainshow.com
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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!

2026/2027 Show Schedule

2026 -2027 Great Train Show Schedule

2026 Dates

October 3-4			Del Mar, CA	Del Mar Fairgrounds
October 10-11	Shakopee, MN	Canterbury Park		
October 24-25	Waterford, MI	Oakland Expo Center		
November 28-29	Collinsville, IL	Gateway Convention Center		
December 5-6			Scottsdale, AZ	WestWorld
December 12-13	East Moline, IL	Bend XPO	Pleasanton, CA	Alameda County Fairgrounds
December 19-20			Ventura, CA	Ventura County Fairgrounds and Event Center
December 26-27				

CHRISTMAS

2027 Dates

January 2-3	Kansas City, MO	KCI Expo Center	Boise, ID	Expo Idaho
January 9-10	Columbus, OH	Ohio Expo Center & State Fairgrounds	Ridgefield, WA	Clark County Event Center
January 16-17	Novi, MI	Vibe Credit Union Showplace	Puyallup, WA	Washington State Fair Event Center
January 23-24	Saint Charles, MO	St. Charles Convention Center	Kennewick, WA	Benton County Fairgrounds
February 6-7	Tulsa, OK	Expo Square	Costa Mesa, CA	OC Fair & Event Center
February 13-14	Indianapolis, IN	Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center		
February 20-21			Sacramento, CA	Cal Expo
February 27-28	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas State Fairgrounds	Albuquerque, NM	Expo New Mexico
March 6-7	Girard, OH	Metroplex Expo Center	Vallejo, CA	Solano County Fairgrounds & Event Center
March 13-14	Des Moines, IA	Iowa Events Center	Reno, NV	Reno-Sparks Convention Center
March 20-21	Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum	Lancaster, CA	AV Fair & Event Center

EASTER

March 27-28				
April 10-11	Xenia, OH	Greene County Expo Center		

Scan and Sign Up

How to sign up: The easiest and quickest way is to sign up online at

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.



Acceptance process: A letter/email indicating the status of this contract will be sent once the contract is received. The letter will state whether the contract has been accepted, declined, or is *on-hold (pending)* while we complete the show floor plan. If placed in a “pending” status, you will receive an accepted or declined notice of this contact at least 21 days before the show. This constitutes an agreement between parties and cannot be orally modified. Modifications can only be made by written agreement.

Merchandise sales: Occasionally, clubs will ask if they can sell items at the show, often as a fundraiser for the club. This is permissible, but there are restrictions. If a club is selling specific club branded items, like a shirt with the club's name, or a club car, then there is no fee to sell at the show. If the club is selling general merchandise, even if the items were donated, the club will need to purchase selling space. This is to be fair to the other dealers. If a club were to receive donated items, or get the space for free or discounted, they would be able to sell the items at a lower price, since they have lower costs. To keep things fair for all the exhibitors selling items, regular selling fees will apply. If you have questions regarding selling at a show, please ask.

Standard Honorarium

Display layouts will be paid a standard honorarium based on square footage and will be as follows:

\$50.00	Less than 100 ft of actual layout
\$100.00	101 to 499 ft of actual layout
\$150.00	500 or more ft of actual layout

You may request a non-standard honorarium. Please be aware we will give first preference to those who do not require an honorarium, then second preference to those who request the standard honorarium and lastly the non-standard honorarium requests. Odds are, if you are asking for something other than the standard honorarium, you will not be accepted except in rare circumstances.

Workshop presenters will be paid a \$15.00 standard honorarium per workshop.

There are a few things I would like to highlight for the upcoming season:

Last year, we added 2 new shows, Kennewick, WA & Girard, OH and brought back Fort Wayne, IN, Xenia, OH and after 30 years, Vallejo, CA. All 5 of those shows have remained on the schedule. In fact, every show from last season is back with the exception of Victorville, CA, only due to some scheduling issues. I believe it will return next time.

For this season, I have brought back a few more places: Belleville, IL, East Moline, IL, Tulsa, OK (after almost 15 years), Little Rock, AR and Reno, NV (both after 30 years) and have added new places like Waterford, MI, just outside of Detroit, right next to Pontiac, MI and Lancaster, CA, near Palmdale, CA as well as Scottsdale, AZ and Albuquerque, NM.

This schedule contains **30** shows in all, and I have tried to fill in some of the gaps. Last year in December we had 2 shows, this year we have 4. Last March there were only 2 GTS shows, this year there are 6. We are also starting to return to summer shows. Belleville, IL is back and next season the summer schedule will continue to grow.

I thank every one of you for helping the shows to grow and I will see many of you this season.

Thank you,

Bill



Layout Application - Great Train Show

Club or Layout Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check (v) which show(s) you'd like to participate at:

	Show Date(s)	Show Location
☐	10/03-04/2026	Del Mar, CA
☐	10/10-11/2026	Shakopee, MN
☐	10/24-25/2026	Waterford, MI
☐	11/28-29/2026	Collinsville, IL
☐	12/05-06/2026	Scottsdale, AZ
☐	12/12-13/2026	East Moline, IL
☐	12/12-13/2026	Pleasanton, CA
☐	12/19-20/2026	Ventura, CA
☐	01/02-03/2027	Kansas City, MO
☐	01/02-03/2027	Boise, ID
☐	01/09-10/2027	Columbus, OH
☐	01/09-10/2027	Ridgefield, WA
☐	01/16-17/2027	Novi, MI
☐	01/16-17/2027	Puyallup, WA

	Show Date(s)	Show Location
☐	01/23-24/2027	Saint Charles, MO
☐	01/23-24/2027	Kennewick, WA
☐	02/06-07/2027	Tulsa, OK
☐	02/06-07/2027	Costa Mesa, CA
☐	02/13-14/2027	Indianapolis, IN
☐	02/20-21/2027	Sacramento, CA
☐	02/27-28/2027	Little Rock, AR
☐	02/27-28/2027	Albuquerque, NM
☐	03/06-07/2027	Girard, OH
☐	03/06-07/2027	Vallejo, CA
☐	03/13-14/2027	Des Moines, IA
☐	03/13-14/2027	Vallejo, CA
☐	03/20-21/2027	Fort Wayne, IN
☐	03/20-21/2027	Lancaster, CA
☐	04/10-11/2027	Xenia, OH

Please check (v) which of the following you'd like to offer at the show(s) and fill in the appropriate information in each section

☐	Preferred Dimensions <i>Enter the preferred dimensions you would like to display at the show</i>	Length ↔	Width ↕
	Dimensions		

☐	Alternate Dimensions <i>Rarely, but occasionally, we may need to reduce the size to fit, or we may have extra space available. If you are flexible in size, please list the min/max dimensions of your display</i>	Min/Max Dimensions	Min Length ↔	Min Width ↕	Max Length ↔	Max Width ↕
	Gauge/Scale:	☐ G ☐ HO ☐ N ☐ O ☐ S ☐ Z ☐ LEGO ☐ Other Display				

☐	Workshop/Demonstration	Title(s) or Subject(s):	
		Preferred Time(s):	

☐	Club/Organization Tables	Merchandise Being Sold:	☐ No ☐ Yes, Club Merchandise <u>ONLY</u> (Complete Box Below)
		Sales Tax # or Tax Exempt #:	

Total # of Tables Requested:		Electricity Required:	☐ No ☐ Yes
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Does your club require an *HONORARIUM* to participate? See the terms & conditions page for information about how our HONORARIUM system works		☐ No ☐ YES Complete Next Line
If YES, is the STANDARD okay?	☐ Yes ☐ NO →	If standard NOT okay, what amount do you require? \$
Please be aware we will give first preference to those who do not require an honorarium, then second preference to those who request the standard honorarium, and lastly the non-standard honorarium requests.		

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 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.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Great Train Show Contact Information Bill Grove – p 224/240-8035 - bill@greattrainexpo.com www.greattrainshow.com PO Box 117, Oswego, IL 60543	
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Exhibitor Terms and Conditions for shows operated by Giant Shows Inc.
Terms and Conditions for Great Train Show & World's Greatest Hobby on Tour

Terms & Conditions

The term "EXHIBITOR" applies to clubs, dealers, organizations or individuals(s) presenting exhibits, displays or demonstrations related to trains and train-related hobbies. The EXHIBITOR hereby agrees to the following regulations, which are listed in this EXHIBITOR contract and to any amendments, which may be established in consideration for the space provided by Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc.

EXHIBITOR agrees to keep his/her display operational to the public, to not remove any items from his/her display for the purpose of packing during the public show hours. Violation of this rule will lead to exclusion from future shows and may result in a claim for damages to the appearance of the show. EXHIBITOR releases Giant Shows, Inc, Great Train Show and World's Greatest Hobby on Tour from all claims arising from EXHIBITORS show occupancy, including but not limited to loss, theft, damage, destruction or injury to EXHIBITOR'S business or EXHIBITOR personnel. EXHIBITOR releases Giant Shows, Inc, Great Train Show and World's Greatest Hobby on Tour from all claims arising out of Giant Shows, Inc, Great Train Show and World's Greatest Hobby on Tour's failure to provide space, removal of exhibit, or failure to hold the show.

EXHIBITOR understands Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc., assume no responsibility for any EXHIBITOR property or for safety at the show. EXHIBITOR 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. EXHIBITOR 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 EXHIBITOR provides EXHIBITOR badges to, people EXHIBITOR invites to the show, and any liability that may be caused by the EXHIBITOR'S actions.

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 an EXHIBITOR or his/her 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 EXHIBITOR the amount of the license fee unearned at the time of ejection. EXHIBITOR agrees to collect and remit sales and use tax in accordance with governmental regulations. EXHIBITOR acknowledges that Great Train Show, World's Greatest Hobby on Tour and Giant Shows Inc., furnishes the name of each EXHIBITOR 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 near our offices in Illinois.

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Workshop presenters will be paid a \$15.00 standard honorarium per workshop.

We offer up to three tables at no charge since they cost us \$10.00 per table to rent. Additional tables will be provided, but are offset against payment requested.

**** This is a legally-binding agreement ****

It's understood that each party intends to be legally bound by it

Great Train Show Contact Information

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