

Northern Virginia Modelers Model Classic 2026

Contest Rules

1. Awards: Each category will have a First, Second, and Third place award.

No Sweeps Rule: An entrant may enter multiple models in a category but may only place once in each category entered. Thus, they may either win a First or Second or Third place award.

Separate Out of Box categories: Out of Box models may also be entered in the appropriate regular categories if desired but will be judged as NOT Out of Box against their peers in the category.

2. Models are entered solely at the entrant's risk. The Northern Virginia Plastic Modelers, IPMS/USA, and Fairfax High School are not liable for loss or damage to any model.

3. Models entered in the appropriate Out of Box Categories must be constructed using only the parts that came in the kit. There are a few exceptions such as adding simple seat belts, rigging or ship railings. Check with the Head Judge if necessary. These entries must be accompanied by kit instructions or original box art.

4. Models may be displayed on a base of reasonable size depicting ground cover, open/removed access panels and ONE figure for scale purposes. If ANY other elements are present on the base the model, must be entered in the appropriate diorama category. Bases will not be judged in any category except Dioramas. (See #16)

5. Markings will be the sole determinant between and within the civil and military classes.

6. Contest entries MUST conform to the OFFICIAL POLICY of IPMS USA (*full policy is below*) in order to be entered. Model Classic will not exercise the option to use screened presentations.

7. Manufacturer pre-painted models may be entered in the appropriate category for the model. On the contest entry form, builders must indicate the fact that their entry is pre-painted. Such entries may be either metal or plastic, but they **MUST** have been assembled by the entrant.

8. Triathlon The contestant must enter three (3) models, each of which must be of a different major category group.

Example: triathlon entries are an airplane, an automobile and a ship; or a figure, an armor model and a spacecraft.

The models will be judged as a group, with overall quality determining placement. Credit will be given for diversity of entries. No more than one of the three models comprising this entry may have won as an individual entry in a previous National Contest. Models constituting this entry may not, simultaneously, be competing in other parts of the contest. Models comprising a winning triathlon entry may subsequently be entered individually if they were not, themselves, previous winners.

9. Collections are a group of five (5) or more closely related items. Past winning models may be included as part of a collection, if they comprise no more than 40 percent of the collection. The entire collection must be the work of one person. The closeness of the relationship within the collection is a significant factor in judging. For example, a collection based on variants of a single airframe is a tighter relationship than one of different aircraft operated by a unit. Models comprising a winning Collection may subsequently be entered as individual entries, if they were not themselves previous winners..

10. The Contest Registration Committee will assist in determining an entry's class at the time of registration, but the final determination rests with the Chief Judge. The decision of the Chief Judge is final. Categories may be combined or split at the discretion of the Contest Committee.

11. Junior entrants (*age 17 or younger*) may compete in either the junior or regular categories, but not both.

12. The Conversions/Scratch-built categories are reserved for those models which are either totally scratch-built or represent a significantly different version of the original kit without the use of commercially available parts as the primary means of conversion. Models converted primarily using commercially available parts will be entered in the standard categories.

13. Vacuform categories are for models constructed from a vacuform kit (*either commercially available or produced by the entrant*).

14. "Curbside" civilian vehicles are to be judged only for presentation and paint finish. They will not be picked up during judging, and need not have completed or painted undersides, interiors, etc. All other models entered in the competition are subject to close examination by the judges, and are expected to be complete in every respect.

15. Commercial Vehicles are defined as those which have some marking of operation by an individual or corporation (*i.e. Acme Towing*) or those that are fitted with equipment appropriate to a commercial function (*i.e. wrecker boom, generator etc.*)

16. Dioramas are judged with consideration of both story line and basic construction, with the emphasis on story line. (*i.e. A very strong story line does not necessarily outweigh very poor construction or vice versa*)

17. Any model that has placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd or won Best of Class or Best of Show at a previous Model Classic or at another IPMS Regional or National contest can be entered for **DISPLAY ONLY**. (*This does not apply to previous awards at other local contests, Out of Box or Merit Awards, or preclude entry in a Triathlon or Collection category.*)

18. Special Theme Categories

America 250 (United States Semiquincentennial)
United States patriotic and commemorative modeling (1776–2026)

Eligible entries: **Any scale, any genre, any medium (aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, spacecraft, figures, vignettes, dioramas) that clearly presents a United States patriotic theme.**

An entry qualifies if **one or more** of the following is true:

- The U.S. flag is a primary visual element** (prominent on the model, carried by figures, displayed on a base, or central to the story being told).
- The subject features **commemorative or patriotic markings** beyond standard national insignia (example: Bicentennial/Semiquincentennial schemes, special "Stars and Stripes" paint, anniversary markings, patriotic NASCAR/IndyCar liveries).
- The scene depicts a **recognizable U.S. patriotic moment, ceremony, or symbol** (example: flag raising, parade, honor guard, national monuments, historic American figures tied to the founding or national identity).

Historic and ceremonial

- Revolutionary War scenes, Continental Army, militia, Founding-era figures

- Declaration/Constitution era vignettes, Independence Hall-type settings
- 4th of July parade scenes, marching bands, color guard, honor guard
- Memorial Day or Veterans Day ceremonies, wreath laying, cemetery honor detail

- Iconic U.S. "flag moments"**
- Iwo Jima flag raising (USMC)

- WWII homefront scenes: war bond rallies, victory parades, factory/shipyard with flags
- Apollo program with U.S. flag (Moon landing display or spacecraft with commemorative presentation)

- Commemorative liveries and special markings**
- "Stars and Stripes" demo teams and anniversary jets (Blue Angels, Thunderbirds, heritage schemes)

- U.S. Coast Guard or Navy "special paint" commemoratives

- Air race or aerobatic aircraft in patriotic schemes

Automotive and motorsports

- NASCAR, IndyCar, drag racing "patriotic weekend" liveries

- Classic cars in parade contexts (convertible with flags, small-town Main Street scene)

- Emergency vehicles in patriotic tribute themes (fire, police, EMS)

Ships and maritime

- Tall ships with flags and bunting, harbor celebration scenes

- WWII-era fleet scenes with signal flags and ceremonial dressing

- Coast Guard rescue or ceremonial displays with strong flag presentation

Monuments and American symbols as the centerpiece

- Statue of Liberty, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Mount Rushmore (as diorama backdrop or central element)

- "Rosie the Riveter" style homefront figure vignettes

- National parks or Americana scenes where the U.S. flag is a focal point

Not eligible (to keep judging consistent):

- A standard U.S. aircraft/vehicle/ship with only normal markings (stars-and-bars, "USAF," "US NAVY," etc.) **without** an obvious patriotic or commemorative presentation.
- Entries where the patriotic element is minor or incidental (example: a tiny flag decal that is not part of the theme).

Walt Champlin Memorial Best Cold War Aircraft

Best Aircraft used during the Cold War (1947-1991)

Mike Neyland Memorial Best USAF Subject

Anything used by the USAF (1947 and after)

Examples: F-100, F-4, Rescue boat, Jet pilot figure, Thor missile, Air base fire truck.

Official Policy - IPMS USA

19. Any attempt by the builder to influence the judges will result in disqualification of all entries by that modeler.

20. Removal of Models

We would prefer that modelers leave their entry in place until the awards are presented so that attendees can view the winning entries. However, if you must leave early, please notify the Head Judge before removing your entries.

21. Award Presentation

Winners must be present to claim an award or designate a proxy who will be present. Alternatively, if you note that you won an award based on the posted list of winners but were not present to claim it, you may contact a club officer and arrange for pick up or shipment of the award at your own expense.

Part One. Prohibitions.

Concerning all sanctioned IPMS contests (*local, regional and National IPMS events*), each of the following depictions (individual models, groups of models, or dioramas/vignettes) are prohibited in competition and may not be placed on display at any IPMS event.

a) There shall be no depiction of excretory functions depicting any human being or animal. For instance, and not by way of limitation, there can be a model of an empty 19th century outhouse, but no human being should be depicted in the graphic process of using the facilities in a restroom.

b) There shall be no depiction of sado-masochistic activity, equipment, settings or situations, to any degree, regardless of whether there are figures in the model, regardless of whether any figures present in the model are clothed or if said depiction is representative of a scene from an S/M movie or book. For instance, and not by way of limitation, no one should be permitted to enter the matter of the depiction of a judicial punishment scene (*e.g., A diorama of thirteenth century Spanish punishment of heretics.*)

c) There shall be no depictions of explicit sexual conduct, bilateral or autoerotic, regardless of degree and regardless of the clothing-status of the participants, that involves the touching of the breasts or genitals or other erogenous zones of any depicted figure.

d) There shall be no depiction of any nude human male or female figures where the genitalia of the figure is exposed where the clear intent of the same is to portray a sexual scene.

Part Two. Screened Presentations.

Concerning all sanctioned IPMS contests (*local, regional and National IPMS events*), each of the following depictions (*individual models, groups of models, or dioramas/vignettes*) may be entered in the competition or put on display but can be presented only behind opaque screens or similar visual barriers and only where visitors are provided with a fair description, in written format, of the contents of the models behind the screen. This screened presentation covers competitors and the general public, but no person younger than 18 will be admitted except in the presence of an adult responsible for the young person, subject to the provisions of governing local law.

a) Depictions of any nude human male or female figure, subject to the 'screening system' described above. For instance, a model of Michelangelo's David would be permissible; the equivalent depiction of a woman would also be permissible. A figure exposing a woman's breast(s) or genitalia absent sexual activity, would be a permissible subject only to specific local laws that would prohibit the same.

b) Models or dioramas of historic events (*e.g., general dioramas or specific depictions of the result of the activities of a Soviet Gulag, or a Nazi death camp*) where the suffering of human beings, or the result of a pogrom, is depicted. Where the theme, content or subject matter of presentations is graphic or would violate any provision of Part One of this policy, then the presentation is prohibited in any setting.