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Trainfest® 2012 – Fun for the Whole Family including a Huge NEW Kids’ Activity Zone!

Trainfest, America’s Largest Operating Model Railroad Show fills nearly four football fields of exhibit space at the WI Expo Center at State Fair Park in Milwaukee (West Allis). This Nov. 10 and 11 from 9am to 5:30pm, Trainfest will introduce, inform and entertain modelers and families interested in trains of all sizes and model railroading.

Over its 41 year history, Trainfest has become an annual destination hosting more than 22,000 visitors over a single November weekend each year.

Modelers flock to Trainfest to connect with other modelers, gain knowledge through clinics and demos, and visit manufacturers to see what’s new in the hobby.

Manufacturers enjoy hearing feedback and wish lists from the varying perspectives of beginners and experienced modelers. Friday Product Showcase, an exclusive preview event, was added to provide one-on-one time the night before Trainfest opens its doors to the public. At this limited ticket event, serious modelers can have face time with manufacturers without the bustle of public days.

Families come to Trainfest for the love of trains and to see their kids’ and grandkids’ faces light up watching the trains go by. Trainfest is a place where kids of ALL ages can see the magic of model railroading come alive. This year, Trainfest has created a NEW Kids’ Activity Zone where little ones can have fun play time in between looking at neat trains.

The Trainfest Kids’ Activity Zone has lots of fun things to see and enjoy including a brand new concert series by *Choo Choo Bob and the Holy Smokestacks Revue*. Performances are from 9:30am to 3:30pm daily, *sponsored by Walthers Model Trains*. Other new activities for kids are the giant **Thomas the Tank Engine® inflatable bounce house**, train-themed story times with *Choo Choo Bob Engineers*, 8’ long wooden train tables *courtesy of Choo Choo Bob*, and a beginners’ clinic for putting together your first mini-railroad.

Plus, returning favorites include LEGO® build area (*presented by the American Institute of Architects*), face painting, make and take craft, coloring and Radio Disney on Sunday from 12:30-2pm (*sponsored by Renewal by Andersen*).

With more than 60 operating model railroads at your fingertips, Trainfest offers endless opportunities to watch trains. And, see detailed landscapes, scenery and structures built or scratch built to every shape and size. However, as much as kids like to look at trains, they like playing with trains even more. So, for some hands-on train experience, check out these railroads with your kids and grandkids at the show.

The Lionel Operating Train Society will be bringing a 6’x8’ Thomas the Train® railroad kids can operate. While at the G Whiz Gang railroad, kids can become train engineers in the making; they can take a turn running a train to earn a Junior Engineer Certificate! Young engineers can also operate the trains at the Southeastern Wisconsin Lionel Group’s classic Lionel Railroad. And, get ready... kids love racing trains on the dog bone-shaped race track brought by the Midwest Division of the Train Collectors Association.

Don’t forget to stop by the clinicians from the Niagara Frontier Region at Trainfest who love to answer questions from modelers of any age on their scenery and building techniques. And, this year brings a brand new type of beginners’ clinic geared just for kids hosted in the Activity Zone. It’s all about getting started with your very first train set (*sponsored by World’s Greatest Hobby and Trainfest*).

Trainfest 2012 has lots to offer train fans of all ages. So, bring the kids and grandkids and spend the day. For more info or admission coupons visit www.Trainfest.com.