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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEAM Education Comes to Life in Model Railroads Kids to Exhibit at Trainfest 2019

MILWAUKEE – Traditional train layouts will receive a brand new perspective when children ages 5-14, display their personal creative train layouts in the new “Trainfest Builders” Kids Layout Section of Trainfest 2019, at Wisconsin State Fair Park, Nov 9-10, in Milwaukee.



The new section at Trainfest, an event drawing more than 20,000 visitors, will feature layouts built by children – from young modelers with a train and toys to older kids applying their STEAM learnings to model railroad building.

“Over the last few years, we’ve been including some children’s layouts at Trainfest and the response has been so positive, we unanimously decided to make it a showcase initiative of our 48th Trainfest,” said Ken Jaglinski, Trainfest Chairman.

Trainfest is collaborating with a number of educators and clubs to ensure the program supports, promotes, and culminates the benefits of a STEAM education. (The grouping of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math academic disciplines to enable children to apply classroom knowledge successfully through analysis and problem solving.)

“I approached Trainfest six years ago when my son was just five-years-old and asked to bring his train layout to Trainfest,” said Luke Barnes, a Trainfest visitor. “At the time, his layout was filled with random dinosaurs, race cars and toys, along with trains.”

“Through the years, my son’s layout has dramatically changed. While it still reflects his love of trains, the layout’s design complexity has grown and demonstrates his creative thinking skills encouraged by his STEAM education.” Barnes said. “I credit model railroading for the motivation and inspiration. It brings his classroom STEAM teaching to life. Little did I know what exhibiting at Trainfest would mean to my son’s education.”



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All children ages 5-14 are invited to participate. Three categories of exhibiting are offered: layouts of toy trains themed by the child; a display of running railroads that incorporates elements of model building; or creation of a Module to spec.

Wm. K Walthers, the Milwaukee-based company known by its legacy reputation of helping model railroad enthusiasts, is sponsoring Trainfest Builders.

Parents, Club Leaders, and Educators can visit www.trainfest.com/trainfestbuilders for more information and to register an exhibit.

About STEAM. More info at <https://educationcloset.com/steam/what-is-steam/> and <https://www.ed.gov/stem>.

About Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. As a leading supplier of model railroad products, Walthers supplies hobby shops globally with thousands of products from over 250 different suppliers. For more information see www.walthers.com.

About Trainfest. Trainfest is America's largest operating model railroad show and the largest fall event held in the City of Festivals – Milwaukee. The event showcases 70 huge and remarkable operating railroads from Z to G scale, more than 100 manufacturers and hobby dealers, dozens of expert clinics, historical displays, and hundreds of hands-on activities and demos. Trainfest is staged by the Wisconsin Southeastern Division, Inc. of the NMRA, a nonprofit, all volunteer organization. Trainfest is held annually on the second weekend of November. More info at www.trainfest.com.

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