

Central Indiana Division / NMRA
Disposition Of Model Railroad Resources



Model railroading is a wonderful hobby . . . many modelers have enjoyed scale trains since their youth. We often hear of enthusiasts who placed a curricular set of train tracks under a Christmas tree as a kid or learn about an original layout, built on a single 4' x 8' piece of plywood. Over the years and even decades, the collection of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, vehicles, electronics, supplies, and tools have grown to fill bedrooms, attics, basements, and out-buildings.

Unfortunately, there comes a time to liquidate all those resources. It might be moving on from the hobby, life changes that involve leaving a home or community (downsizing), or a modeler passing on. The mountain of equipment and supplies is worth something, to someone, but who? Information on this site should help in identifying the best process for you and your loved ones, as to the disposition of model railroad resources.

First and Next Steps:

Once an individual, friend, or family member is ready to dispose of model railroading resources, there are numerous "steps" to consider . . .

- ① Seek advice and assistance from local modelers, especially those close enough to be familiar with history of the models and resources. If nothing else, they would understand the scale of all resources, and could help identify truly valuable items versus those of less worth. Maintain an inventory of resources by creating a Word file or develop a listing via an Excel spreadsheet. These local friends may also know of a commercial outlet, such as an auction house, that could help move the items.
- ② Contact a local model railroad club, as their membership might desire to review the collection of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, scenic supplies, tools, and related items. Perhaps the club members might be aware of websites or dealers that are helpful.
- ③ Families might think about hosting an Open House, providing a "one last time" opportunity where local friends, neighbors, and NMRA members could view the layout for a final time. During the event, consider offering any (and all) items for purchase to the visitors. This honors the work of the model railroader while allowing interested individuals a chance to pick-up cherished items.
- ④ The NMRA Central Indiana Division has train shows each year with many dealers and individual renting tables. The website: <https://www.cidnmra.org/> has a listing of upcoming events. There are additional train shows in the area managed by other organizations. A site that lists events across the region is found at this URL: <https://www.trainshowlist.com/>
- ⑤ Area clubs are listed on the Central Indiana Division's website. They may be a ideal contact for possible donations: <https://www.cidnmra.org/model-railroad-clubs>

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Additional NMRA Information:

The National Model Railroad Association website has additional information about Estate Planning and disposition of a model railroad estate.

<https://www.nmra.org/estate-planning>

The Fox Valley Division of the NMRA has this information page:

<https://foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/estates.v2.html>

There is also a link to video presentation on the same subject with additional info:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PlsEn8M8tfU>

Internet Resources:

A helpful website:

<https://railwaypages.com/disposing-of-model-railway-and-other-train-stuff>

Midwest-based vendors are noted at this URL:

<https://www.portlines.com/collection-disposal-options>

Interested in model railroading:

The National Model Railroad Association is a good way to learn more about the hobby including the local Region and Division. People are encouraged to attend events to learn more and to consider membership.