

National Capital Model Soldiers Society 2023 Washington Show

Categories, Awards & Contest Rules

(As of September 4, 2022)

This September 30th the NCMSS Washington Show is returning to its previous venue at the Springfield Hilton in Northern Virginia. As is our custom Gold, Silver and Bronze awards will be given according to the “Chicago” or “Open” system selected by judging teams. We will also continue the opportunity for all entrants to vote for the “People’s Choice Best of Show”.

These are the categories for this year’s show:

Junior Level – The Junior Level is intended for novice painters and modelers under the age of 18.

***Awards for qualified exhibits are Certificates of Merit and a Medal.

Note: If a modeler is 18 or under, and if they feel their work is competitive at the General or Advanced Level, they are free to put their work in those levels.

General Level – The General Level is for miniaturists or modelers of more developed skills, but who don’t feel quite ready to exhibit their work at the advanced level.

***Awards are Pewter Medals and Certificates of Merit.

Advanced – the Advanced Level is geared to modelers of proven ability who have won awards at similar exhibitions in the past. Exhibits at this level are entered in one of eight divisions:

- Historical Painters
- Historical Open
- Flat Figures
- Fantasy/Science Fiction Painters
- Fantasy/Science Fiction Open
- Ordnance
- Gundam Painters
- Gundam Open
- Show Commemorative Figure
- Diorama

***Awards are Gold, Silver, Bronze Medals in each division.

***judges will select a “Best of” in each of the nine divisions.

In the Historical, Fantasy/Science Fiction, Flat Figures and Gundam Painters Divisions, judging is based entirely upon painting skill. Exhibitors should note on the Registration Forms the kit manufacturer. Although scratch-built and converted figures may be entered in the Painters Division, these figures will be judged solely on the quality of the painting.

The Historical, Fantasy/Science Fiction and Gundam Open Divisions are intended primarily for scratch-built and converted figures, but also vignettes; exhibits are judged on equal measures of imagination, presentation, and painting/modeling skill. Exhibitors should note on the Registration Forms the kit

manufacturer. If the work is a conversion, a short description of what was done to convert the figure or note that the figure is scratch built is helpful. For vignettes the figures and/or vehicles need not be conversion or scratch built.

The Ordnance Division is for models without figures, such as aircraft, tanks, cars, and ships. In this division, NCMSS does not differentiate stock/commercial kits from converted or scratch-built kits and models. Judging will be based solely on modeling and painting skills. *Note: Figures may be included, but they will not be considered in the judging.* **This Division is sponsored by Northern Virginia Modelers.**

Diorama Division is a combination of models with a believable setting that tells a story, or sets a mood, or creates a charged atmosphere. In addition to evaluating the modeling of a diorama's individual elements, the judges will consider the strength of the diorama's storyline or mood and the overall presentation of the diorama. These three factors are equally important. For dioramas, the figures and/or vehicles need not be conversion or scratch built. **This Division is sponsored by Northern Virginia Modelers.**

Category Awards

Best Historical Painters

Best Historical Open

Best Flat

Best Fantasy/Science Fiction Painters

Best Fantasy/Science Fiction Open

Best Ordnance

Best Gundam Painters

Best Gundam Open

Best Show Commemorative Figure "Colonial Militiaman"

Best Diorama

Special Awards

For 2023 the club has special awards to the following categories – please help us out by indicating if your model is eligible for any of these in the comments section on the entry form.

Best Bust Award. For the best painted bust, any era or category.

Best World War I Figure Award. For the best painted World War I figure. *(Sponsored by Model Cellar)*

Joe Bles "Semper Fi" Award. For the best figure or diorama of the U.S. Marines any era.

Best U.S. Infantryman Figure Award. For the best painted figure of a U.S. Infantryman any era.

Best Napoleonic Figure Award. For the best Napoleonic era figure (mounted or dismounted). *Sponsored by the **National Capital Model Soldier Society (NCMSS)** in honor of Chuck E. Robinson owner of Red Lancers Military Miniatures.*

Victory in Europe Award. The figure, diorama or display that best celebrates the allied victory in Europe in World War II.

Wargame Award. For the best exhibit of “game playable” wargame figures, displayed as a collection of single figures, units or a balanced army or fleet.

Gundam Award. For the best painted Gundam all scales.

Blast from the Past Award. For the best-painted figure or figures from a kit first produced 25 years ago (before 1997). If you have questions about eligibility, contact the show chairman.

Show Theme Award “Honoring the Revolutionary War’s End, 240 Years”. Best American War of Independence figure, vignette, or diorama.

Best of Show. There are two categories of Best of Show Awards:

1. **Judges Best of Show.** The winner of this award will be chosen by the Show Judges.
2. **People’s Choice Award.** The winner of this award will be chosen by popular vote of show attendees. Each entrant will receive a ballot via e mail on which to record their choice, along with their best in Category choices.

*****Other awards may be added at the discretion of the Show Chairman.**

Eligibility. *Anyone can enter a figure or model in the NCMSS 2020 Show, you don’t need to be a member of NCMSS to take part. However, if a model has previously been entered in an NCMSS show it cannot be entered again this year except as “for exhibit only”. However, any 2021 NCMSS Virtual Show entries are still eligible for this show.*

Disclaimer. *NCMSS will take all due care with your figures and models but will accept no responsibility for any damage that may occur. Every effort will be made to not handle your model during the show, but it may still be necessary for organizational and/or judging purposes. If your model is on a diorama or display base it should be securely attached to the base to avoid it sliding off if handled. Alternatively, a note warning that it is not attached to the base is recommended, but this is still not a guarantee of safety. Signs on our display tables will state, “Do not Touch!”*

JUDGING SUMMARY

The NCMSS uses the “Open” judging system used at most U.S. Figure Exhibitions (Chicago, Atlanta, MFCA etc.). <http://www.military-miniature-society-of-illinois.com/opensystem> Judging is done by two or more teams with each team consisting of three judges. Judges WILL NOT judge their own work. The basic judging procedure is as follows: the judges by concurrence select the pieces to be judged, and then judge them individually. The judging team selects for judgment the piece or pieces most likely to

give the exhibitor the highest award. At least one piece or group of pieces is selected for each exhibitor, even if the judges feel the work is not likely to win an award. As the selections are made, each judge enters the title of the piece and the name of the exhibitor on his judging form.

The judges then award points independently of each other. Each judge awards each piece or group previously selected up to four points: 2 points for a Bronze Medal, 3 points for a Silver Medal, and 4 points for a Gold Medal.

These sheets with the numeric scores are then turned in to the Awards Committee. The Committee ensures the accuracy and integrity of the scores, and then tallies up the points given by each judge in order to determine the level of award given to each piece or group of pieces that were judged. The maximum point value any piece or group can receive is 12 points. The awards are assigned based on point totals. 11 to 12 points rates a Gold Medal; 8 to 10 points is a Silver Medal; 3 to 7 points is a Bronze Medal.

The Awards Committee Chairman supervises the judging. Experience with the system and detachment from the actual judging process gives him an overall view of the work on exhibition and the judging process. In the case of disagreement, or even a tie within the judging teams, the Awards Committee Chairman will have the final say.

Judging Criteria (not necessarily listed in order of importance or consideration):

- Degree of Difficulty
- Creativity
- Workmanship
- Painting Skill
- Presentation & Overall Effect
- Historical Accuracy