



49th Annual Midwestern Model Ships & Boats Contest & Display

A Nautical Research Guild Associated Contest
May 15-17, 2026



Awards

The judges invited by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum are recognized ship model and art authorities. Judging criteria includes overall impression of the model, historical accuracy, and research and construction papers. Models are judged on established standards, not against each other. The judges' decisions are final. Qualifying entries receive gold, silver, or bronze awards in each category and class. Special awards are given at the judges' discretion. This criterion includes the following special awards:



F.K. Bemis Best in Show Award

Sponsored by the Bemis Family



Roger Jaekel Great Lakes Award.

Sponsored by Midwest Model Shipwrights



Dana McCalip Best Miniature Award for models at 3/32" = 1 foot scale or smaller.

Sponsored by Nautical Research & Model Ship Society of Chicago



Steve Wheeler Best Novice Builder Award

Sponsored by North Shore Deadeyes



People's Choice Award selected by museum visitors.

Sponsored by Wisconsin Scale Boating Association



Modelers' Choice Award based on ballots.

Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Shipwrights



Gordon Stiller Best Maritime Carving Award

Sponsored by Scottie Dayton