



# Evaluation Standards For 2026 Wine Country Model Expo

## Overview of Evaluation Method

The 2026 Wine Country Model Expo uses an open Gold, Silver, Bronze (GSB) style of evaluation.

Under the GSB system, models are evaluated against an established standard of excellence, representing the current standard of modelling within the hobby. Models are not compared against one another, and awards are not limited in number.

Multiple models within the same genre may receive the same award level, or none at all, depending on whether the standard is met.

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## Purpose of GSB Evaluation

The purpose of GSB evaluation is to recognize and reward craftsmanship and artistry.

GSB evaluation does not seek to eliminate models, but rather to award models that meet defined standards of quality. Jurors should consider:

- Fundamental modelling skills
- Overall execution and presentation
- Level of effort and degree of difficulty
- Artistic merit

Jurors should weigh errors or flaws against areas that were executed and performed well, considering how visible and egregious any issues may be. Not all flaws should be weighted equally.

When a juror team is undecided between no award and Bronze, the benefit of the doubt should be given to the modeller. However, these are not participation

awards — a model must meet the minimum standard for Bronze, Silver, or Gold to receive an award.

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## **Impartiality and Bias**

Although the identity of the modeller is displayed at each display area, who built the model must not factor into evaluation.

Jurors must actively avoid both conscious and unconscious bias and evaluate only what is presented in front of them.

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## **Scope of Evaluation at the Wine Country Model Expo**

Models are displayed by individual modeller, not by genre or category.

Jurors evaluate models within their assigned genre by assessing each modeller's work independently, rather than ranking or comparing models against the work of other modellers on the tables.

If a modeller presents multiple models within a juror's assigned genre, jurors must first perform a triage to identify the single strongest candidate — the model most likely to receive the highest award – for evaluation within that genre. Only that model is then evaluated against the GSB standards for award determination. Details of the triage process are provided in the *Juror's Guide* document provided along with this document.

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## **Display-Only Models**

Some models may be designated by the modeller as Display Only and are not eligible for award consideration.

Display-only models are clearly marked on the table and must be ignored entirely during triage and evaluation.

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# Evaluation of Fundamental Modeling Skills

## 1. Seams

Elimination of seams is a fundamental modeling skill. Jurors should evaluate:

- Whether the modeller made a reasonable attempt to eliminate seams
- How visible or egregious any remaining seams are

If no attempt was made to address a clearly visible seam, an award may not be appropriate. Minor imperfections such as faint indentations or “ghost seams” may still allow for an award, depending on severity and overall execution.

## 2. Glue

Glue application errors are often easy to identify. Multiple obvious glue blobs or smears may preclude an award.

If the model is otherwise well executed and only a minor glue blemish is present, an award may still be appropriate. Jurors should assess the visibility, frequency, and impact of glue errors on the overall presentation.

## 3. Alignment

Alignment issues are common and can be visually distracting.

- Multiple significantly misaligned components are likely disqualifying
- A single minor misalignment that is not visually dominant may still allow for an award

Jurors should consider both the number and severity of alignment issues.

## 4. Paint and Finish

Paint and finish quality should be evaluated for control, consistency, and execution, not personal preference.

Jurors should assess whether the finish is:

- Even and consistent
- Free of graininess, pebbling, cracking, or peeling
- Free of visible surface contamination or preparation flaws

Differences in sheen, weathering intensity, and color choice should not influence evaluation when they are intentional and well executed; however, inconsistent or unrealistic application that detracts from the overall quality of the model may be considered.

## 5. Clear Parts

Clear parts often allow little margin for error.

Jurors should evaluate how visible and egregious any flaws are, such as:

- Fogging
- Glue smears
- Significant gaps
- Scratches or cracks

Minor flaws may still allow for an award depending on overall execution and impact.

## 6. Decals

Decal application quality has improved significantly in recent years.

Jurors should assess decal application for:

- Conformity to surface detail
- Absence of visible carrier film
- Lack of wrinkles, cracking, melting, or silvering

Minor silvering or defects in limited areas may still allow for an award. Jurors must judge severity and extent, not perfection.

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## Gold, Silver & Bronze Award Standards

There is no limit to the number of Gold, Silver, or Bronze awards that may be given.

There is also no requirement to give any award within a genre if no model meets the standard.

Award determinations are made independently for each modeller and should not be influenced by the other models present at the Expo. General guidelines for award levels are as follows:

**Gold — Exceptional Craftsmanship**

- Errors, if present, are extremely difficult to detect
- Fundamentals are executed at a very high level
- Finish and detailing demonstrate advanced skills
- The model clearly stands out

A Gold award should be difficult to earn.

All Gold award models should be considered for applicable Best Of awards.

**Silver — Superior Craftsmanship**

- Very well executed overall
- Only minor flaws are present
- No egregious fundamental issues
- Finish and detailing are excellent even though not flawless

**Bronze — Above Average Craftsmanship**

- Solid basic skills are evident
- Errors or inconsistencies are present but not egregious
- Flaws do not overwhelm the overall presentation
- The model does not fully meet Silver or Gold standards

**Conditions That May Preclude an Award**

Conditions that may preclude an award include situations where one or more of the following issues are present to a degree that significantly detracts from the overall presentation:

- Unpainted parts
- Very significant alignment issues
- Very poor or rough finish
- Abundant, easily noticed decal silvering
- Clearly visible seams
- Fogged or glue-smearred clear parts
- Sloppy painted details

- Easily visible glue blobs or marks
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## **Youth / Junior Entries**

All Youth/Junior entries should receive an award of some level, at minimum Bronze, to encourage enthusiasm, and skill development.

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## **Personal Taste**

Jurors must separate personal tastes and styles from competent technique, craftsmanship and artistic merit.

A style that a juror does not personally prefer is not inherently wrong or less skilled. Jurors should assess whether, within the chosen style, the modeller's work was executed skillfully, competently and/or reflects artistic merit.

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## **Historical Accuracy**

Historical accuracy is not an evaluation criterion.

Jurors may have deep knowledge of some subjects and limited knowledge of others, making consistent application impossible. Accuracy should not influence award decisions.

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## **Final Guidance**

When in doubt on any evaluative question, jurors should pause and feel free to consult their Team Lead or the Expo Head Juror.

Thank you for serving as a juror and for supporting the Wine Country Model Expo.