

Saturday Call Board  
Guide for Hosts  
12.27.23

Give the “Saturday Call Board” a thirty day lead time for an operating session.

It also boils down to Respect. Respect your guests time and effort to help you achieve your dream.

Clearly communicate your dream. It can simply be the time and place you are modeling. Ex: Erie Lackawanna in Akron, Ohio in 1962. Do not overload your guests with too much info.

Clearly state your ground rules when your guests are invited. Where to park, what door to enter your home, and what to bring/not bring are all good topics. Make sure they are not blindsided before entering your layout.

Prepare a briefing. It doesn't have to be long, but it needs to cover the basics: the bathroom, where to put coats,

Provide an orientation prior to the start of the session. Overview and concept of the railroad. Car forwarding approach and associated paperwork. Traffic Control System - e.g. CTC, TT&TO, etc. Dispatching and signaling rules. Communication mechanisms. Throttle operation. Anything else operators need to know. Inform operators if food or drink are allowed in the railroad room, or where the food and drinks are allowed.

Be organized and ready to go when guests arrive. Welcome everyone.

Make sure layout is in good operational condition - clean track and wheels, couplers proper heights, etc.

Partner up “rookies” with “old hands” if possible.

Ask guests to let you know of any problems they experience (so you can fix them before the next session).

Provide clear paperwork for jobs. Ensure that towns, industries, directions, are clearly indicated on the layout and/or facia.

Don't criticize operators who make mistakes. Remember, no one gets hurt and it is about having fun.

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