

# Somerset County 4-H Trainmasters Club

The Somerset County 4-H Trainmasters is a group of 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders who build and operate their own O gauge modular layout. Our members, as they progress through the various years, construct their own train modules, create landscaping, custom paint train cars, build their structures from kits, design & make buildings from scratch, and participate in special projects as senior members. The club currently consists of over 30 members.

If you are interested in joining and can commit to the below, please sign up to be on our waiting list. To keep the club size manageable, each year we accept three to six new first year members.

## **School Grade**

A potential member must, as of October, be in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade or above: a lot of the work they will be doing involves power tools and various forms of model making that require skill, care, cooperation, and patience.

There's more to the club than just running trains. It's about learning basics in mechanics, electricity, carpentry, and even art. A member is expected to put their best effort into the project they're given each year.

## **Meetings**

We have two regularly scheduled meetings per month, October 2014 through July 2015: a General Meeting on the second Tuesday and a Work Session on the third Thursday -- both meetings are at 7 PM and held at the 4-H Blum Center on Milltown Road, Bridgewater. You and your parent/guardian must attend 80% of the required meetings in order to qualify to exhibit at the 2015 Summer Fair<sup>1</sup>. Your parent or guardian must be present during our meetings and activities.

## **Other Events and Obligations**

The club also has scheduled events and obligations throughout the 2014-2015 season which we expect our members participate in:

- *November/December:* Sell 4-H wreaths, including wreath decorating night as a club
- *December:* Festival of Trees
- *January:* 4-H Science Award Night
- *January:* Winter train meet where we showcase our layouts at the 4-H Center
- *March:* Public presentations
- *March:* Showcase our modules at the spring Greenberg Trainshow in Edison
- *June:* Spring train meet at the 4-H Center
- Community service project
- Sell ads for the Summer Fair Yearbook
- *August:* 2015 Summer Fair

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<sup>1</sup> If you attend fewer than five of the meetings after the first seven meetings, you will be sent a Risk Notice. The Risk Notice will advise you that you are in jeopardy of not being able to exhibit at the Fair. If your attendance falls below 50% after the first ten meetings, you will be asked to resign from the club.

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## **Supplies and Expenses**

The club will supply all of the materials to make the modules including ballast, except for the track and cork roadbed. The cost of supplies is \$100.00. You will also need to purchase four sections of Gargraves flex track and four sections of cork roadbed.

In subsequent years, members will be responsible for other expenses such as landscape supplies, unpainted car kits, and buildings.