

0 Scale West 2026 Attendee Feedback

35 responses

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Proposed Schedule Changes

Planned Dates Change

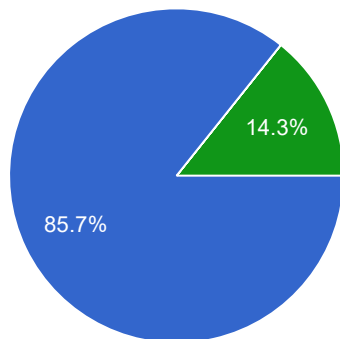
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As a courtesy to 0 scale modelers who plan to attend both the Chicago March Meet and OSW, the 2026 OSW was scheduled to provide a two week gap between the meets.

The 2027 Chicago March Meet dates are a week earlier than the 2026 dates. For OSW to maintain that two week gap, the 2027 OSW will be moved to **February 26-27, 2027**.

Will this make a difference in whether you attend the 2027 OSW?

35 responses



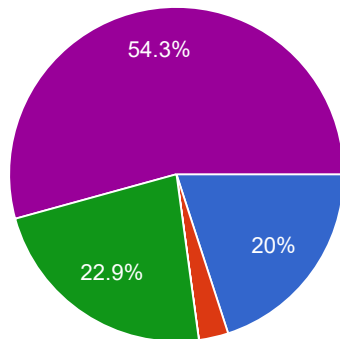
-  I am planning to attend OSW 2027 whatever the date.
-  I have a schedule conflict on this date that will prevent my attending OSW 2027.
-  I am not planning on attending OSW 2027.
-  I haven't yet made a decision on attending OSW 2027.



Do you have a preference about having permanent dates, rather than trying to accommodate the March Meet?

 Copy

35 responses



- Keep at least 2 weeks between OSW and the March Meet.
- OSW should be the last weekend in February.
- OSW should be the first weekend in March.
- OSW should be sometime in February or March.
- No preference.

General Admission Attendees Only

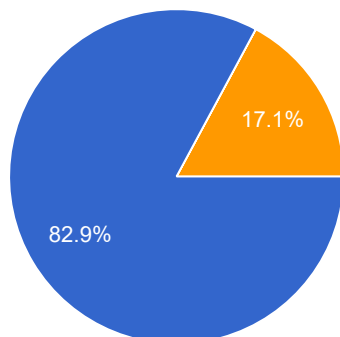
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This year, the Friday schedule for general admission attendees was to open at 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm, then reopening again from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. The Saturday schedule was to be open from 9:00am until the show closes at 4:00 pm.

For 2027, we are considering changing the Friday schedule is to open for the general admission attendees at **Noon** until the show closes at **7:00 pm**. The schedule for Saturday would continue to be from **9:00 am** until the show closes at **4:00 pm**.

Will this work for you?

35 responses



- Yes
- No
- N/A



Vendors and Vendor Helpers Only

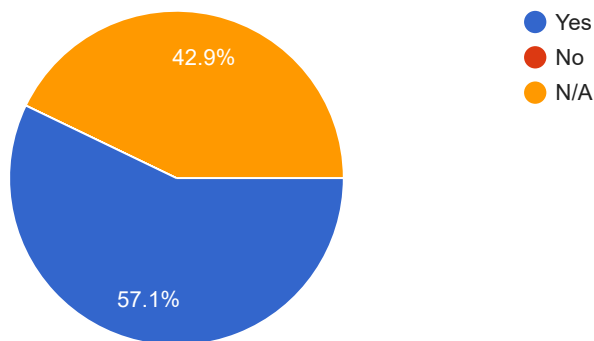


This year, the setup schedule on Friday was from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm and on Saturday from 8:00 am until 9:00 am.

For 2027, we are considering changing the Friday schedule to open for setup at **8:30 am** and open for the general admission attendees at **Noon**. The Saturday schedule for setup will be **8:00 am** until **9:00 am**.

Will this work for you?

35 responses



For On-Site Layout Staff Only

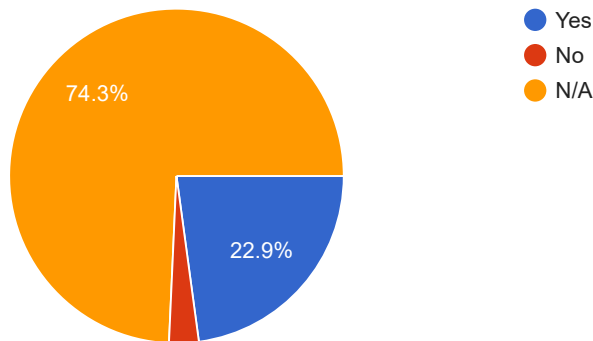


For 2026, the on-site layout setup time was allocated on Friday to be from 8:00am until 1:00pm when we opened up for the general admission attendees.

For 2027, we are considering changing the setup time on Friday from **8:00am** until **Noon**, when we will open for the general admission attendees.

Does this give you enough time to complete the "heavy lifting" part of setting up your layouts e.g., the layout is viewable but testing, etc. may be in progress?

35 responses

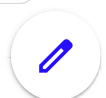
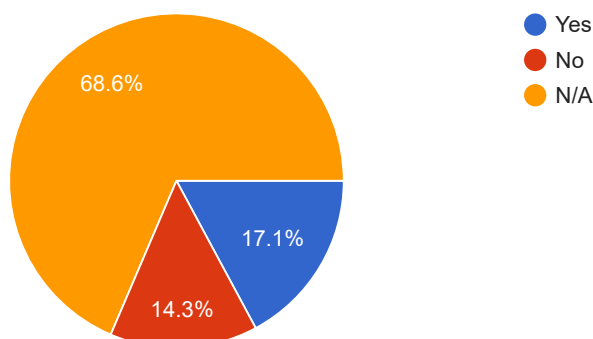


For On-Site Layout Staff Only



If it were possible, would opening earlier than 8:00am on Friday be helpful?

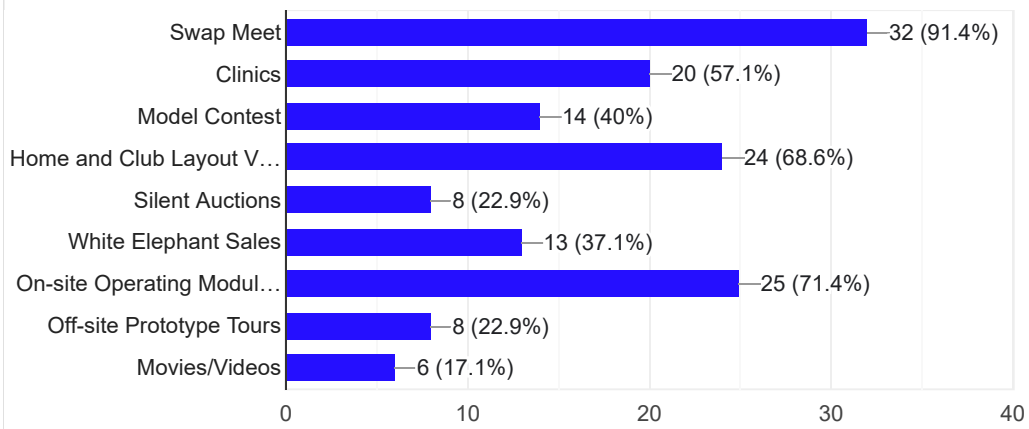
35 responses



What content/activities are most important to you during an OSW Meet?
Check all that apply.

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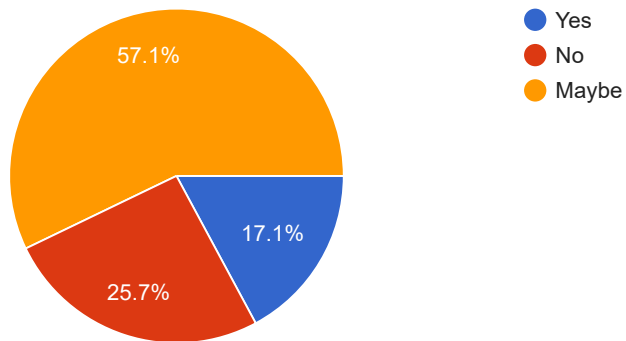
35 responses



Would you be interested in an off-site tour (prototype) was offered on Friday morning (before the show officially opens)?

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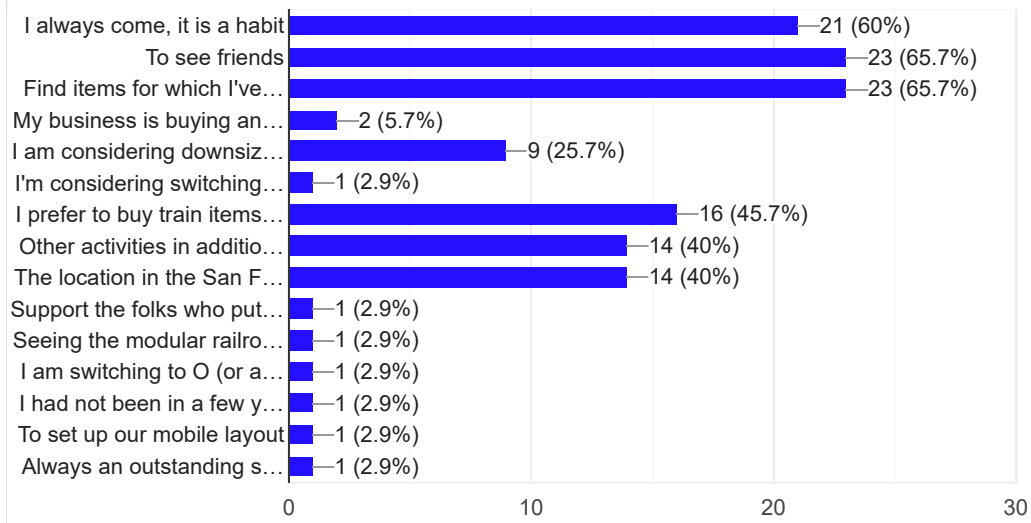
35 responses



Reasons you came to OSW 2026.



35 responses



Meet Activities

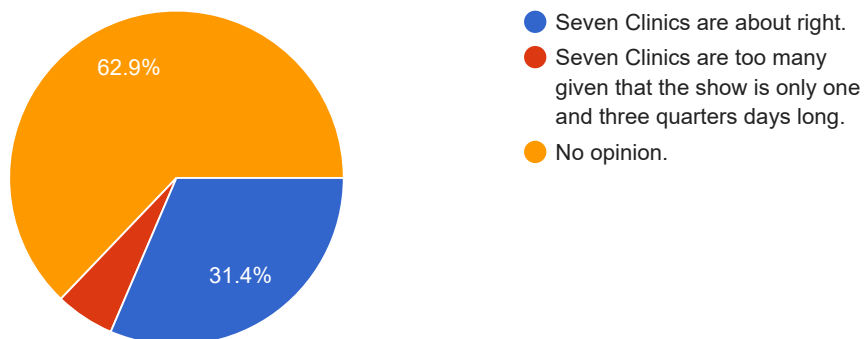
Clinics



For this year, there were seven different clinics presented at OSW. What are your thoughts on the number of clinics that should be offered?

Please consider that the time available for clinics, assuming the show schedule is changed per above, is only 15 hours. This is made more complicated because we only have one clinic room. We also need to provide at least one half hour each day for early attendees to check out the show.

35 responses

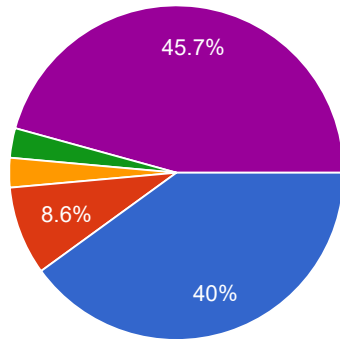


As in previous years, this year's Clinic Schedule allowed one hour per clinic. 45 minutes was allocated for the presentation, with 15 minutes for Q&A. In addition, because of the number of clinics offered this year, only 30 minutes was allocated between clinics.

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What do you think of this scheduling?

35 responses

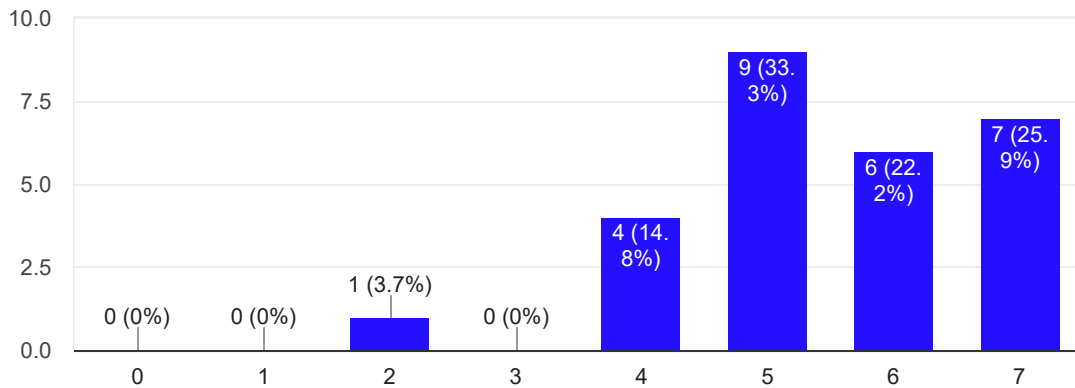


- One hour is a good length and 30 minutes between clinics seems fine.
- One hour is a good length, but more than 30 minutes should...
- One hour is not long enough for a presentation and a Q&A se...
- One hour is not long enough for a presentation and a Q&A se...
- No opinion.

What do you see as the right number of clinics given the meet's only one and three-quarters days long.

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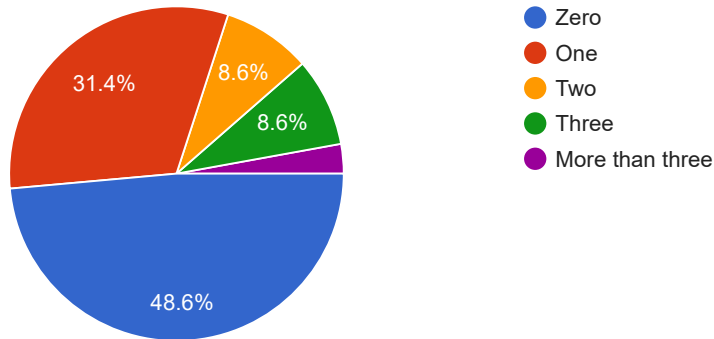
27 responses



How many clinics did you attend?

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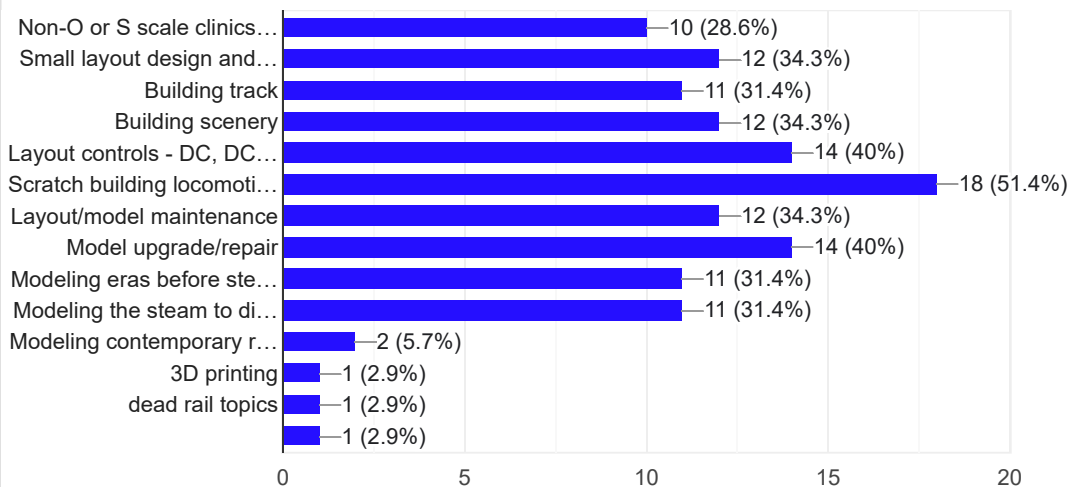
35 responses



Please tell us what topics you are interested in. If your topic is **not** listed below please provide it in the clinics comments section.

 Copy

35 responses



What clinics not on the above list would you like to see offered?

3 responses

As an old guy who has built his final layout clinics no longer interest me.

dead rail operation for O scale

Logging and mining

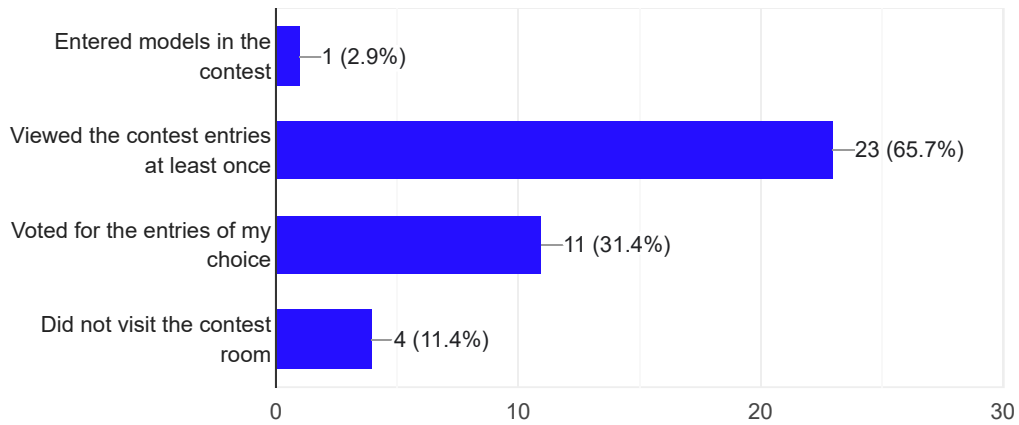


Contest

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What was your participation in the contest?

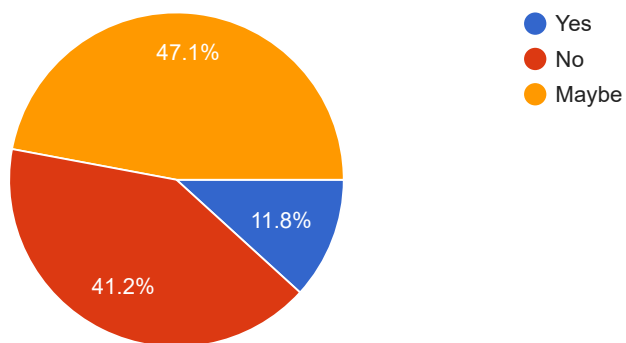
35 responses



If the photo contest was reintroduced with four categories: color model, B&W model, color prototype and B&W prototype you would enter it?

 Copy

34 responses



Please provide your feedback about the Contest.

9 responses

very nice

I'm glad the photography section was eliminated. I think there needs to be some kind of incentive to enter models. If the number of entries remains so low, perhaps the model contest can be eliminated.

It is unfortunate the number of models that show up in the contest room has dwindled over the years. I did not bring anything this year as I did not complete anything in time to do so. I really appreciated Jim Harper bring a number of his beautiful models for show only. His work always inspires me. Suppose there were three ways to put a model in the contest room? 1) For popular vote as in the past, 2) for display only and 3) models under construction for display only.

Did not participate or view models

More entries

Generally I would have something to enter, but not in 2026

Display environment is of most importance

would be nice to promote contest models... I need to be reminded to show models

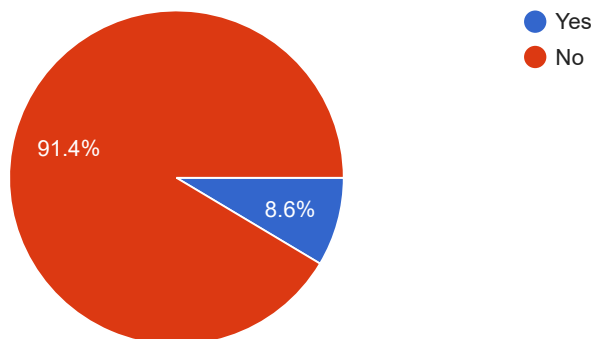
Really liked the high level display along the bar

Silent Auction & White Elephant Sale

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Did you place any items for sale in either the Silent Auction or the White Elephant sale?

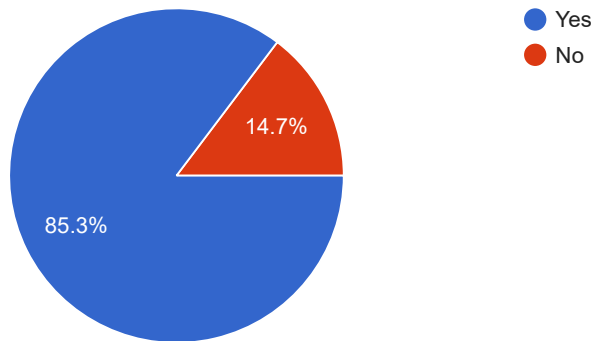
35 responses



Did you view the items in the Silent Auction or the White Elephant sale?

 Copy

34 responses

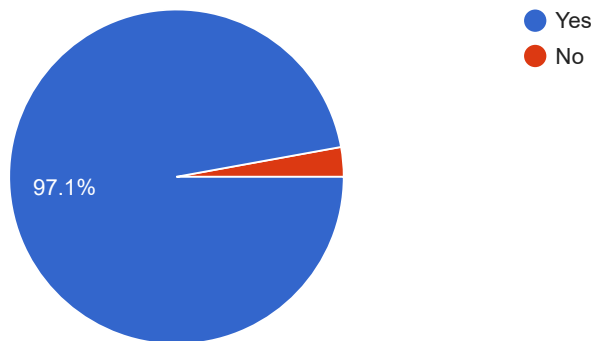


On-Site Layouts

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Did you view the on-site layouts?

35 responses



Do you have any suggestions or comments on the On-Site Layouts?

6 responses

The layouts were exceptional.

Nice to see them!

Need more 2-Rail O Scale standard

Enjoyed all of them

They were all excellent. It would be great if an O scale 2-rail (not narrow gauge) display was participating. I always enjoyed the the Orange County O Scale modular display.

Don't let small kids stand on folding chairs maybe have a couple step ladders

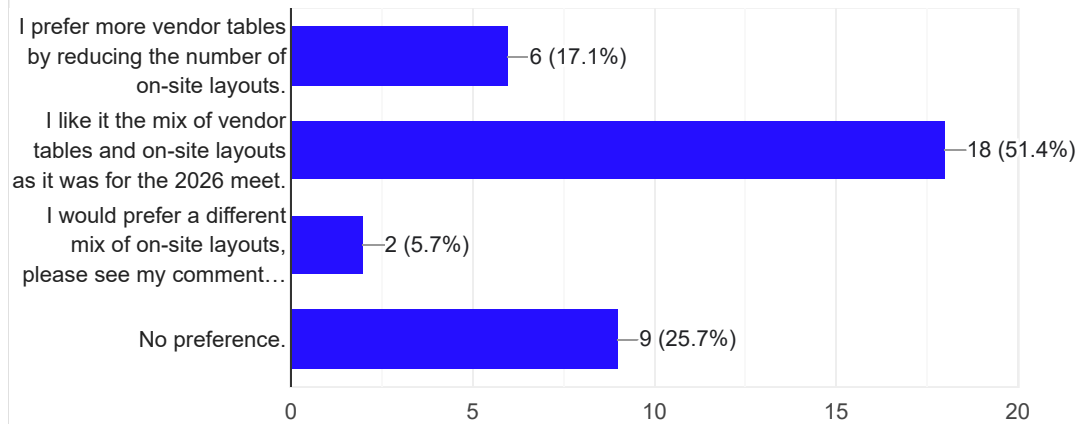


On-site Layouts vs. More Vendor Tables



In the IFES Society venue the only way OSW could increase the number of vendor tables would be to decrease the number of on-site layouts. Note that more vendor tables are only possible if more vendors come to OSW than in the previous two meets.

35 responses



Comments on On-site Layouts vs. More Vendor Tables.

6 responses

More layouts

Maybe slightly fewer (or smaller) layouts to allow for more vendor tables. It would be nice to see some traditional vendors too as in 2023. Right-O-way comes to mind.

Worked at a layout. Enjoyed comments from attendees. Always a pleasure at OSW

I thought that the space allotted to each was excellent.

would be nice to see more vendors coming

Less smoke from engines



Home Layouts

If you participated (visited) and/ or hosted an off site layout what was your experience?

10 responses

I hosted a layout - we had a great turnout -would love to do it again next year.

Always a joy to see what folks have built

Great

I have hosted nearly every O-Scale West since the beginning. It is always an enjoyable experience, made more so by the helpers who run the railroad and get guests to operate while I talk with visitors. I also like visiting other layouts, and was especially pleased to be able to visit Chris Holumbo's wonderful layout one last time.

Yes. Good option

Always one of my favorite parts of OSW.

some awesome layouts to visit

Grouping is very important
Travel time is costly

Did not participate.

Would like a map with approximate locations to plan several visits in the same trip

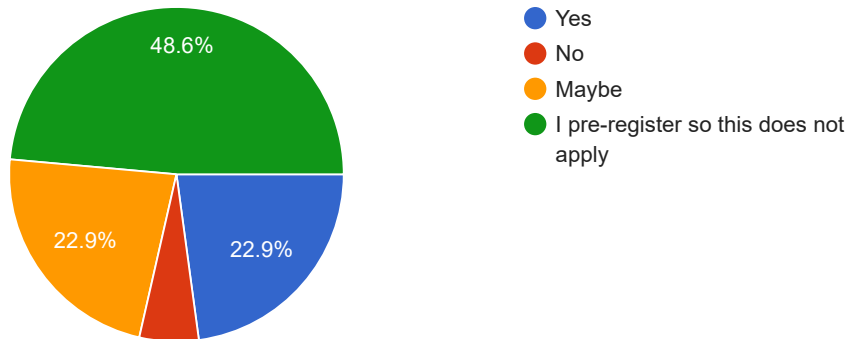


Registration

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We are considering offering payment by credit card for walk-up (not pre-registered) attendees. This would add some time to the registration process, and possibly delay everybody. If you may be a walk-up registration in the future, would the trade off of using a credit card be worth the longer registration wait time?

35 responses



How was your registration experience either online, and/or in person?

25 responses

No issues

good

I did not preregister and I did not bring cash and had to go to Safeway to get to the ATM to get the entrance fee. I think this needs to be fixed. It will not slow the line down at all to take credit cards given that people have to fill stuff out anyway.

Both

OK

Ok

Great

Good.

On-line went really well.

Ok. I think an Early Bird discount would be good.

EXCELLENT no issues

In person: it was quick friendly and easy. It's not a lot of effort to bring cash.

Fine

In person but previously has been online.

no problem

It went very smoothly, unlike 2024.

It was good, no problems

It was OK as I remember

Registration was fine. Usually I pre register but was on crutches so did not know if I could come. I had to go regardless.



Online - very good

Very good, no problems.

Online and it was fine.

terrific

Do you have any suggestions to improve our Registration Process?

8 responses

No

Take ATM/credit cards for the entrance fee.

no

No

Should allow credit card or other cashless payment options

Everything was fine. Great

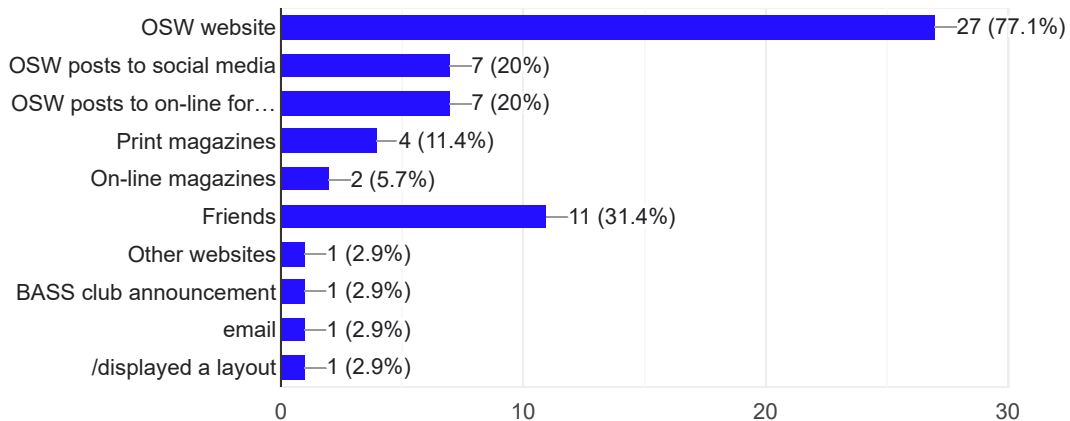
Give discount for early registrations

Communications

How did you get your information about OSW 2026?

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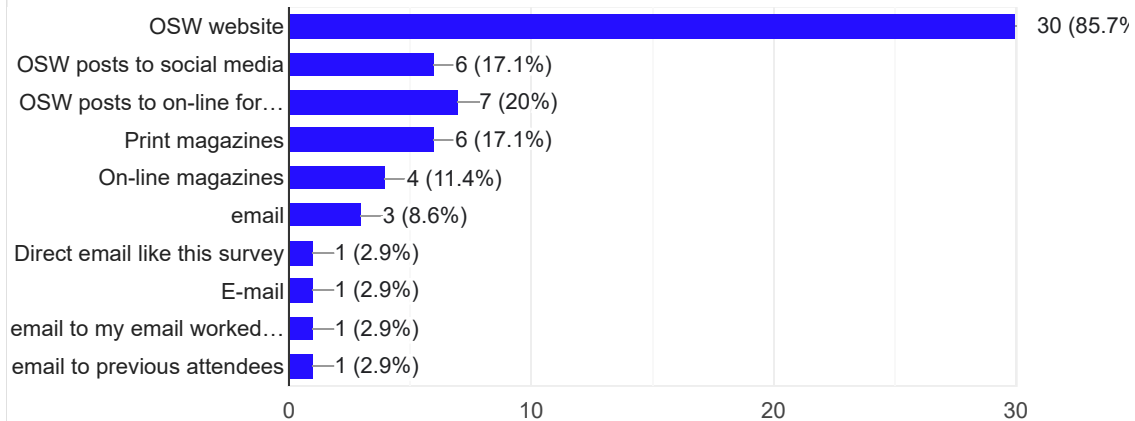
35 responses



How would you like to receive future OSW updates and schedules?

[Copy](#)

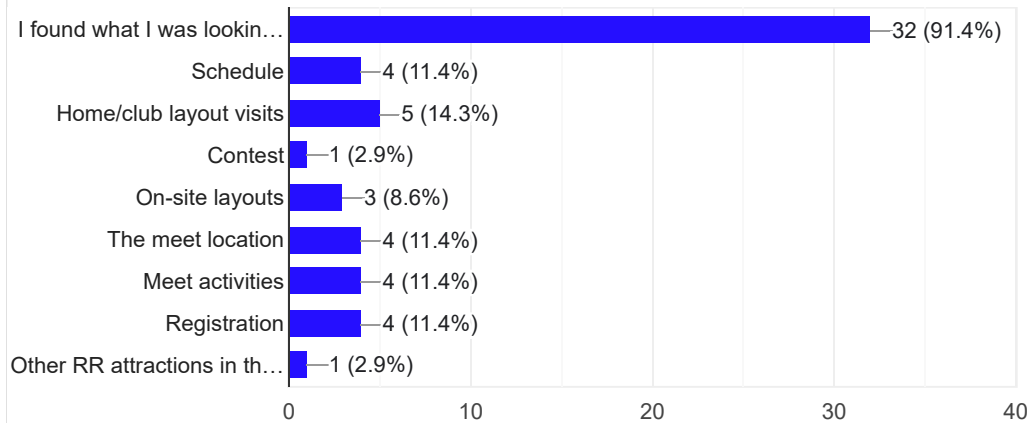
35 responses



On the OSW website, were you unable to locate information for any of the following topics?

[Copy](#)

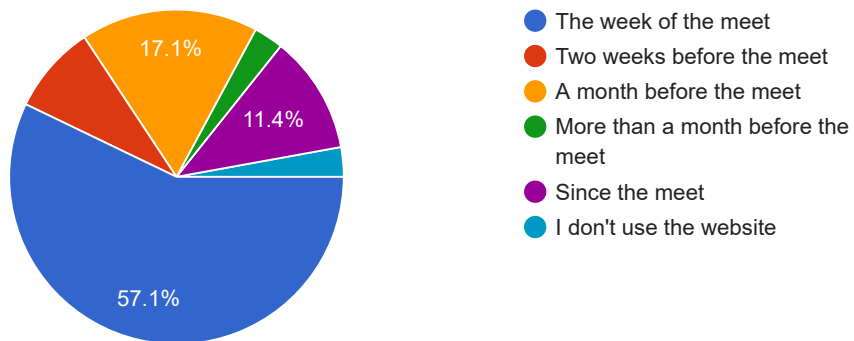
35 responses



When was the last time you visited the OSW website?

[Copy](#)

35 responses



Please provide your feedback about the OSW website.

5 responses

It's fine

Looks fine.

Simple, but it works. Keeping it current is key, and I thought you did a good job with that.

I liked the site.

it is fine

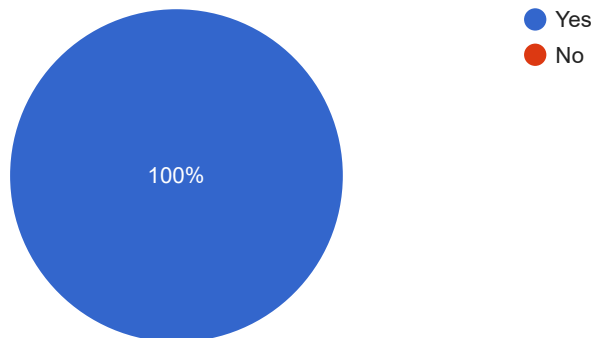
About the New Venue

Getting Around the Meet

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Were you able to find the meet entrance and navigate your way around the meet given the signs provided by OSW?

35 responses

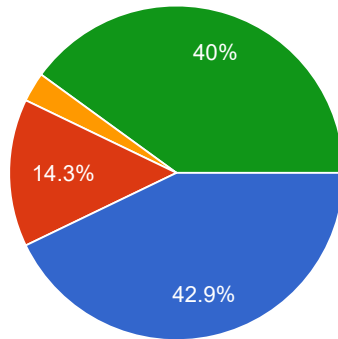


Load In/Load Out



Did you have any problems with load in/load out?

35 responses



- I was a vendor and had no problems
- I was with an on-site layout and had no problems
- I had problems and have described them along with possible solutions in the comments section
- N/A

Comments on Load In/Load Out

Please supply your contact information at the end of the survey if you would like a reply.

2 responses

The ramps are dangerous for moving large layout sections and large vendor carts

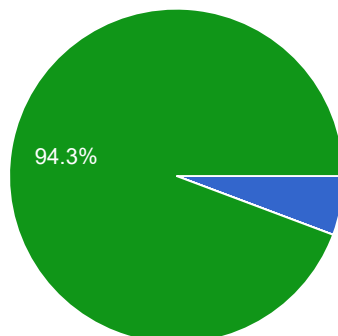
set up was easy and fast

Parking



Did you have any problems with parking?

35 responses



- On Friday, I had problems with parking and have described them along with possible solu...
- On Saturday, I had problems with parking and have described them along with po...
- I had problems with parking on both days and I've described them in the comments section
- I had no problems with parking



Comments on Parking

Please supply your contact information at the end of the survey if you would like a reply.

4 responses

Parking did fill up but not a bad thing parked on the street.

parking was bad @ beginning of swap meet times then better an hour or 2 later.

The lot is small and fills up. Maybe reserve an area like next to IFES for attendees

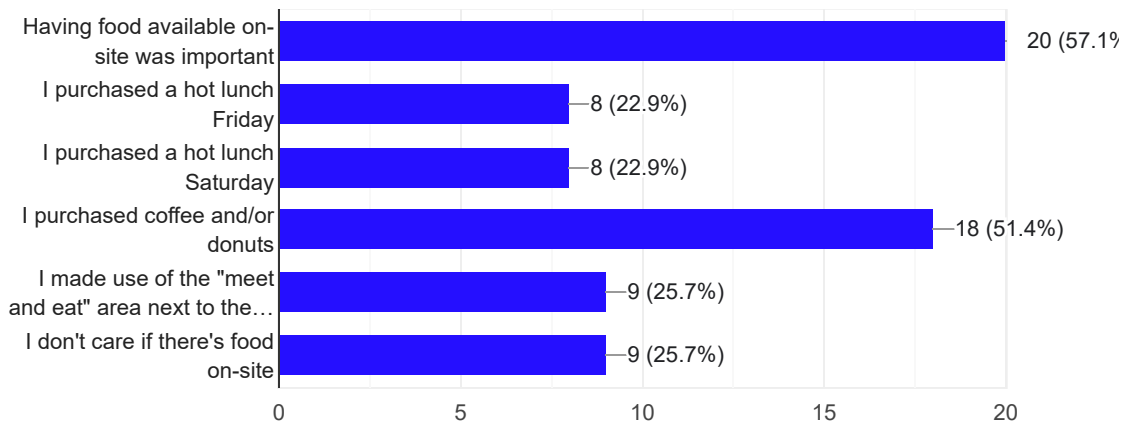
Need sign by parking lot showing entrance

The IFES Society staff provided coffee and donuts in the morning and a hot lunch prepared on-site.



We are interested in how that worked for you? Please make any comments about the food in the comment section below.

35 responses



Comments on Food

Please supply your contact information at the end of the survey if you would like a reply.

10 responses

excellent

Great food served by a bunch of great ladies, Just perfect!

great spaghetti Friday be something else for Saturday would be nice

food's always good on site

I was not aware that there would be food available on site. Perhaps that could be added to the web site and/or the registration form. Had I known, I (we) might have extended our stay at OSW.

I did not know food was available for purchase.

Admission was at 1 PM and IFES served lunch. However lunch was gone at 1 pm so need to let us in earlier or serve later. Nice kitchen staff at IFES so want to accommodate them

I would have preferred sandwiches on one day. The spaghetti was excellent.

Loved the cozy ladies serving food And I loved the whole facility

Have water and drinks available all day (ice chest)

Final Thoughts:



General feedback on OSW.

16 responses

Such an iconic meet for the South Bay. I know everyone is trying to reinvent it in the wake of all the changes that have happened over the past 10 years or more. I was pleasantly surprised by how good this year felt. Keep on keeping on.....

Great

Better than previous years

Great show I hope it grows

I am local, so I will probably always attend. At the very least to help support the hobby.

Good show this year, and I enjoyed participating. Plan to be there in 2027, God willing!

You put on a fun show. I brought my niece along this year and she had a great time.

I thought it a great Meet and was happy that it worked out well

Glas show was moved back to March from May so i could attend

It was a nice show and location.

Thanks for putting this on.

Sad that it is smaller

I spent a lot of time putting together a slide show and nobody showed up. The time slot was scheduled during layout visits. Some of attendee's said they would have liked to have seen the show, but scheduling prevented it.

Michael Desing

The meet was excellent. The new venue works well.

Thanks Rod and Crew....It was fabulous



Suggestions for improvements to future OSW meets.

13 responses

Credit card processing at the door as mentioned before.

would be nice to have more vendors

If available list of layouts open prior to meet

Attract more sellers and more contest room entries! with luck that should increase attendees.

Make sure people know where the contest room is, I almost walked past it without knowing it was there.

BIGGER TEXT ON NAME BADGES - AND TWO SIDED

More layouts at show and offsite

Try and get atlas, 3rd and Townsend or MTH 2-Rail to come

Put an ad on Next Door (online local events site)

Hope to see more vendors

would be good to see more o scale manufacturers of equipment at the show

Have lunch, coffee doughnuts, water available so one can come in look around, talk and still have time for lunch. IFES is nice hall run by very nice people. I go to events there several times a year and do not want to make it difficult for them especially kitchen crew. Will have to check out more parking close next visit there.

Have want listing on website so that vendors can bring items needed by buyers



you have it

THANK YOU!

A summary of this survey's results will be posted on the O Scale West website (<https://oscalewest.com>) and the group's Facebook page "Oscalewest".

If you provided your feedback, suggestions, name, or email they are **confidential to OSW**. We may contact you to gain more insight into your comments.

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