

# SWITCHER

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The Journal of the Lionel® Operating Train Society



# Unmistakably Lawrence! - Home of the LOTS 2021 Annual Convention

Make plans now to experience and explore the Sunflower State with fellow LOTS members during the **LOTS 42nd Annual Convention - August 1-8, 2021**. Lawrence, Kansas is in the middle of the continental United States and conveniently located 40 minutes west of Kansas City and 30 minutes east of Topeka, the state capital. Kansas City International Airport (in Kansas City Missouri) is a comfortable 45-minute drive on a series of four-lane interstate highways. Several major airlines operate out of KCI, offering many nonstop flights across the United States.

Lawrence was founded by pioneers driven to create a state where people of all races would be free. The has continually defined itself as an open, energetic and welcoming community. Lawrence has LOTS of fans! Home of the University of Kansas, the city has many Jayhawk fans. They have "national fans" too as they've been included on national lists for being #7 of the top 20 Coolest Towns in America; one of America's 50 Best Cities to Live in; #2 College Town to Stay in Forever; one the top four best Slam Dunk College Towns during March Madness; one of 10 Best Dynamite Day Trips, and one of the most authentic main streets in the US (Massachusetts Street)! In addition, in the state of Kansas, Lawrence makes the list for: having four of the top 10 best restaurants in the state (Merchants Pub & Plate, Burger Stand, 715 and Free State Brewery); having the most iconic bar (Johnny's Tavern); top 3 best mountain bike trails (Lawrence River Trail); the Best Destination in Kansas (fabulous Mass Street and Downtown Lawrence) **and** the LOTS 42nd Annual Convention and Kansas Model Train Show! In August of 2021, Lawrence, Kansas will truly be unmistakable when the LOTS family convenes for the first time in 25 months! Be safe, stay healthy and plan now to join fellow LOTS member is Lawrence, Kansas! **"Make plans now to join your fellow LOTS Members in Lawrence, Kansas with LOTS! You're sure to have a great time!"** Bring your friends and family with you! LOTS Members are some of the friendliest conventioners on the planet!



Our 2021 Convention headquarters hotel, the Doubletree by Hilton Lawrence (200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, Kansas) is a full service, conveniently located two blocks South of the I-70 West turnpike exit 202.

They offer two dining areas, the Heartlands Garden Grille for breakfast (included in the rate!!) and Boulevard Grill for dinner and drinks. Whether it be lounging by the saltwater pool or the hot tub or playing a game of ping-pong or billiards after a day of touring, the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Lawrence offers something for everyone.

Each of the spacious rooms at the DoubleTree features free Wi-Fi, free coffee and tea, flat-screen TV, refrigerators and hair dryers. Additional amenities include free self-parking, a saltwater pool and hot tub and a state-of-the-art fitness

center.

Our preferred single-quad group rate is \$99 plus tax and **includes tickets for a free breakfast buffet each morning**. Reservations are being accepted now at 785-841-7077 or via a link at [www.lots-trains.org](http://www.lots-trains.org). If you call be sure to mention you are with LOTS to receive the group rate. Reservations must be received by July 1, 2021 or before our room blocks are full, whichever comes first.

The **Kansas Model Train Show** will be held in the Regency Ballroom of the hotel on Saturday, August 7 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you have any questions or require additional information not contained in this article, please call Paula Smith at 513-598-8240, or email her at [lotsbusinessoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lotsbusinessoffice@gmail.com).

## **Tour #1: Topeka State Capitol, The Great Overland Station and Combat Air Museum**

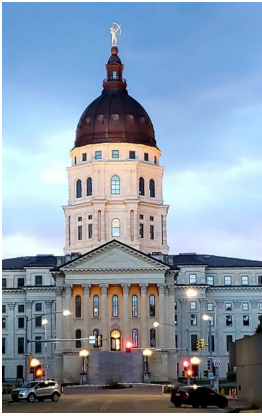
Monday, August 2 - Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Adults: \$60.00, Children: \$40.00

To kick off our 42nd Annual Convention, we'll head west to Topeka. Our first stop will be to tour the State Capitol. The capitol, built with native limestone dates from 1866. Atop the dome is a 22-foot-high



statue of Ad Astra, a Kansa Indian warrior, after whose tribe Kansas was named. A tour of the Statehouse is a journey into Kansas' past, brought to life through important artifacts, beautiful murals, sculptures and historic photographs. Even the limestone and marble tell a story of Kansas resources and ambitions. Get a glimpse of spectacular spaces including Representative Hall, the Senate Chamber, the State Library and the Old Supreme Court. In 2014 the building was rededicated after a 13-year, \$332 million dollar renovation. The Kansas State Capitol Building is complete and gleaming like the day it was built. Upon completion of our tour of the Capitol, we'll travel a short distance to the Great Overland Station and All Veterans Memorial.



The Great Overland Station began as a Union Pacific railroad passenger station on January 27, 1927. It survived floods, remodeled for railroad offices, was abandoned in 1988, and damaged by fire in 1992. Railroad Heritage, Inc. leased the building from the Union Pacific Railroad to prevent the building's demolition. In June 2004 The Great Overland Station opened its doors again as a museum celebrating Topeka's rich history. The building, valued at more than \$5 million, is on the National Register of



Historic Places as the Union Pacific Railroad Passenger Depot. Visitors to the museum can learn about area railroads including the Santa Fe/BNSF, Union Pacific, Rock Island, Missouri Pacific and Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad through photographs, special exhibits, and costumed docents. The BNSF Plaza includes the Corridor of Flags and All Veterans Memorial honoring our nation's veterans and active military.

The last stop on today's tour will be to the Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field. On exhibit are 42 aircraft ranging from the earliest aviation period to the present day; the largest collection of WWI replica aircraft in the Mid-West; historic aircraft

engines of many sizes and types, including a rare



Whittle gas turbine engine, an extensive display of artifacts and dioramas, and a growing gallery of

military aviation art. Among the aircraft on display are an EC-121 Super Constellation, a Blue Angels F-11F Tiger and F-14 Tomcat, and a JN4 "Jenny" biplane. Lunch will be served at Iron Rail Brewery or at the Great Overland Station and is included in the price of the tour.

## **Tour #2: National WW1 Museum and Arabia Steamboat Museum**

Tuesday, August 3 - Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Adults: \$82.00, Children: \$62.00



Today's tour takes us east to Kansas City, MO. Our first stop will be at the Arabia Steamboat Museum in the

River Market area. The Steamboat Arabia was one of many casualties of the perilous Missouri River—the longest river in the United States that claimed nearly 400 other steamboats over its 2,500-mile course. In September 1856 the Arabia was carrying over 200 tons of cargo intended for general stores and homes in 16 mid-western frontier towns. The steamer was still fully loaded when it hit a tree snag and sank just six miles west of Kansas City. Due to erosion the Missouri River changed course over time, and the Arabia was buried underground for over a century – along with all of its precious cargo. Lying 45 feet deep beneath a Kansas cornfield, the Arabia's payload was protected from light and oxygen and, thus, was remarkably well preserved. In 1987 Bob Hawley and his sons, Greg and David, set out to find the Arabia. They used old maps and a proton magnetometer to figure out the probable location, and finally discovered it half a mile from the modern location of the river under 45 feet of silt and topsoil. The owners of the farm gave permission for excavation, on the condition that the work be completed before the spring planting. On November 26, 1988, the Arabia was exposed. Four days later, artifacts from it began to appear, beginning with a

vulcanized rubber overshoe. On December 5 a wooden crate filled with elegant china was unearthed. The mud was such an effective preserver that the yellow packing straw was still visible. Thousands of artifacts were recovered intact, including jars of preserved apples that are still edible. The amazing artifacts that were recovered are housed in the Arabia Steamboat Museum.

The last stop during this first day in Kansas City,



Missouri is the National WWI Museum and Memorial which houses the most comprehensive collections of WWI objects and documents in the world. Even if you have no interest in WWI, you will love this museum.

During the course of two hours you will take an epic journey through personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice that make the experience of the war era meaningful and relevant for current and future generations.



A boxed lunch will be included.

### **Tour #3: Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad, Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum and Dickinson County Heritage Center and Museum**

Wednesday, August 4 - Time: 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Adults: \$95.00, Children: \$75.00

We'll travel 1 hour 40 minutes west to the birthplace of Sprint Telecommunications - Abilene, Kansas!

Our first stop is the Abilene and Smoky Valley



Railroad for a steam train excursion. We'll travel eastbound for a 10 1/2-mile round trip on a former Rock Island Railroad branch, through the Smoky Hill River valley

between Abilene and Enterprise, Kansas. While in Enterprise, we'll visit the Hoffman Grist Mill to see the milling process and purchase some fresh ground unbleached and non-preservative flour. A 1919 Baldwin 4-6-2 "Pacific" type locomotive, Santa Fe #3415 was moved to its present location at the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad yard in April, 1996,

from the city park in Abilene where it had spent the last 40 years. Locomotive 3415 was built in 1919 and was in regular service on Santa Fe's Argentine District out of Kansas City. The railroad donated the locomotive to the city of Abilene in 1954 and placed in the city park. In 1996 the city donated it to the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad. It was moved from the park and placed on the railroad's tracks near the depot where it sat on display until restoration was started in 2005. This is the only operating steam locomotive in the state of Kansas and is one of only three operational, former Santa Fe steam locomotives. There might be an opportunity to win a ride in the locomotive and ride on a rail bus on tracks that the train can't traverse.

After returning to Abilene we'll visit the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

During our tour we'll visit the visitor's center in which an orientation movie will be shown; the boyhood home of President Eisenhower; the presidential library; the final resting place of Dwight D. and Mamie Doud Eisenhower and their first-born son Doud; and a recently upgraded 25,000-square-foot museum dedicated to President Eisenhower and the time he served as President. In the Museum attendees can examine artifacts from the archives and hear stories to gain an understanding of how Ike's experiences made him the perfect General to lead the Allies to victory in Europe during WWII. Hear Ike's words on a variety of issues from D-Day to world peace in mini-theaters. Learn about Mamie not only as First Lady, but also as a friend. Discover why Dwight Eisenhower became known as the Champion of Peace and leave inspired and proud to be an American!

Our final stop in Abilene is the Dickinson County Heritage Center and Museum. The museum shares the history of the telephone and its early independent proprietors since the original patent was issued to Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. Included are interactive exhibits of antique phones, insulators and switchboards. An outdoor exhibit includes the oldest operational C.W. Parker carousel (1901) known to exist, it still delights children as it did in the Gilded Age prior to World War I. Learn the rags to riches story of Charles Wallace Parker, who spent most of his last dollar to buy his daughter rides on a carousel instead of purchasing groceries; seeing the excitement on her face as she rode, he decided to get



into the carousel business and later became known as the Amusement King. The carousel features horses and chariots artistically hand carved by German immigrants. Hear the music of the 1904 Wurlitzer Band Organ playing the tunes that kept children and adults thrilled and amused for decades as they rode the carousel at carnivals. We have arranged for the carousel to be operated by a steam engine, just as it did a century ago. Lunch will be included on the train.

**Tour #4: Kansas City's Union Station,  
Home Layout and Alton Depot**

Thursday, August 5 - Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Adults: \$65.00, Children: \$45.00

Tour #4's line up begins at Kansas City, Missouri's Union Station where we'll enjoy a guided tour. Built

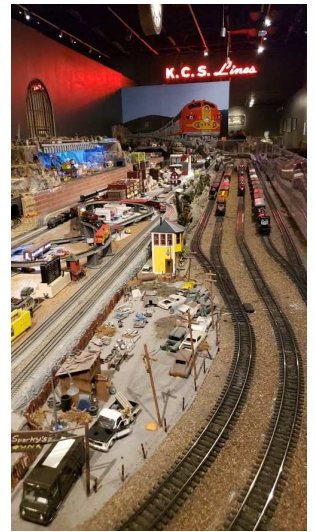


in 1914 Union Station opened her arms with 850,000 square feet of amazing space that originally featured 900 rooms. In her prime as a working train station, she accommodated hundreds of thousands of passengers each year. During WWII an estimated one million travelers – many of those soldiers – passed through the Station. The North Waiting Room (now Grand Plaza) held 10,000 people and the complex included restaurants, a cigar store, barbershop, railroad offices, the nation's largest Railway Express Building (used for shipping freight and mail) as well as a powerhouse providing steam and power. So many stories of farewells, reunions and of day-to-day vibrancy still echo in her walls. Closed in the 1980s, Union Station sat empty and neglected, narrowly escaping demolition on several occasions. Then in 1996 a historic bi-state initiative was passed to fund the Station's renovation, which was completed in grand fashion in 1999. Union Station is once again a majestic and desired destination. She draws tourists from all over the world who marvel at her Grand Hall's 95-foot ceiling, three 3,500-pound chandeliers and the six-foot-wide clock hanging in her central arch. During our visit, after we catch our breath from

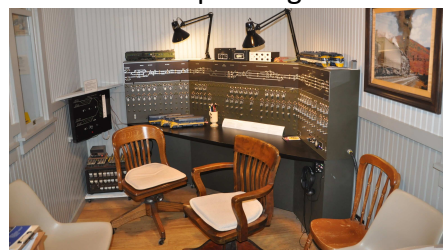
the grandeur of Grand Hall, we'll view the Model Railroad Experience, 8,000 square feet display of model trains from tiny N-scale model trains to the big G-scale giants of the model train world! Finally, we'll head out to the bridge between the station and the freight house for a little "rail fanning" where we can view the signals at each end so we know when something is coming, which is about every 10 minutes or so.

Also included during today's tour is a visit to the 1879 Chicago and Alton Depot - The two-story railroad depot was built in 1879; restored in 2002. It is believed to be the only completely restored two-story train depot in Missouri. It contains three rooms on the first floor: the waiting room, station master's room and baggage room.

The second floor was the station master's residence: kitchen, dining room, bedroom and parlor. Furniture in each room is period correct. A separate display room contains railroad artifacts.



Finally we'll stop at Jim and Ruth Eudaly's two-rail O scale layout that represents the Chesapeake and Ohio - Hinton Division. The 35' x 50' layout with an add-on 9' x 12' Dispatcher's Office for the O Scale Hinton Division, is located in a Butler building in the Eudaly's back yard. The scenery is 100% complete. All structures are scratch-built and are full scale models. All mainline curves have easements and super-elevation. There is 3,200 feet of track, 132 switches and 2,000 handmade trees. The operating schedule is for 1949 when passenger trains were still in the WWII



mode of second stations on the mainline trains. Passenger trains are 2 to 16 cars and the longest freight trains are

40' long hopper trains. Thirty-four steam engines

and 24 diesel units handle the traffic. One of the most unique features of the layout is that it's fully



signaled and operates with a US&S CTC machine that was rebuilt from an SP machine used in Oregon. Dispatchers wear telephone headsets

and crews use telephones to communicate with them. It takes a crew of 9 -12 people to run a three-hour session. The Eudaly's are looking forward to sharing their working layout with us. You will not be disappointed!

A boxed lunch will be included.

### Get Acquainted Party:

#### National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame

Thursday, August 5 - Time: 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Adults: \$72.00, Children: \$45.00



The  
LOTS 2021  
Get  
Acquainted  
Party will  
take place



at the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame. The National Agriculture Center features The Museum of Farming 20,000 square feet devoted

almost entirely to large antique farm machinery and implements. The Gallery showcases artifacts including the plow US President Harry S. Truman used as a youngster along with a prairie schooner, a loom, a 1903 Dart truck, a horse-drawn mail wagon, traveling exhibits and a kid's play area. The Art Gallery houses a large collection of rural art. In Farm Town, is the Island Creek School House, a one-room school house built in 1917 in Piper, Kansas, and used as a school until 1961. Farm Town also contains a hatchery, blacksmith shop and general store. There is also the Santa Fe Depot to see before taking a ride on the miniature narrow-gauge Union Pacific train around the lake. Dinner will be served in the Smith Event Barn during our evening stay.

A traditional Kansas BBQ brisket dinner is included in the ticket price.

### Tour #5: Home Layout Tour

Friday, August 6 - Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Adults: \$55.00, Children: \$35.00

The LOTS 2021 Home Layout Tour will feature the following layouts:

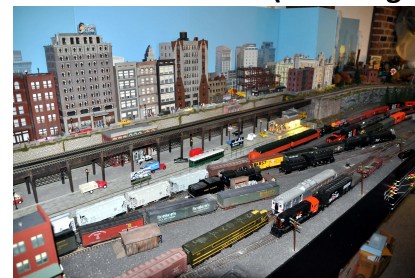
**Andy Dubill (O-Gauge)** - Sue and Andy Dubill welcome LOTS members to their home to visit their train layout and collections. Andy re-entered model railroading after a 45-year delay in 2006 when he purchased a Postwar Lionel train, a few accessories, transformer and a 4' x 8' piece of plywood from a Boy Scout from whom he was purchasing some old Boy Scout collectibles. Although he vowed his layout would never be bigger than 4' x 8', it grew to an 11' x



16' U shaped layout. The layout is modeled after a 1950s basement layout. He dyed sawdust for much of the ground cover and used as

many old accessories as possible. In addition to the layout, Andy has a number of other displays to share with us, the largest being his Boy Scout memorabilia collection. In the July 2013 issue of Classic Toy Trains, Roger Carp highlights Andy's Boy Scout history and model trains together in one article.

### Jack Rosenfield (HO-Gauge)



Jack Rosenfield of Overland Park, Kansas began model railroading with an under-the-Christmas tree Lionel train set, circa 1949. His HO

layout recalls his early years growing up in Port Chester, N.Y., both watching and riding the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad on its runs between his home town and New York City. His highly scenicked basement HO layout measures 16' x 18'.

The operating equipment includes numerous rail-crossing signals, turnout controls, and a working six-stall steam engine barn. His approximately 20 engines include both steam and diesel, and operating trolley cars for this transition-era model railroad.



**Don Miller (O-Gauge)** - Don and Judy Miller are excited that they will get to share Don's Dakota Southern layout with LOTS members. Don received his first train in 1955 for Christmas. He still has that train and has always had an interest in trains real and toy, since then.



The first spike was nailed in place on Don's current layout in 2004 and although he'd love to have the layout even bigger than the 1,000 square foot room it fills, he had to compromise with his bride of 51 years just as many of us do. Be sure to check out the Christmas and amusement park areas and the City of New Carrollton. Those areas are the Miller's favorite parts. Don allows some local teenagers the opportunity to help with the layout. He makes it fun and they have fun! They also created a video about the layout. The video highlights the layout and adds an educational feature of Judy explaining the purpose of the different parts and features. Check it out on YouTube.com DMiller5261 - 2020 Christmas Layout.

**Russ Boersma (O-Gauge)** - Russ has been involved with the toy train hobby since he was six years-old. His current layout (34' x 22') features long straight-aways with gentle curves. Russ was the inventor of the Ballast King, no longer produced, ballast spreader. His flexible retaining walls are made from 1/4" thin foam underlayment. His four-step easy construction procedure was featured in the February 2019 issue of Classic Toy Trains that he'll share with those who visit. His entire layout will be featured in an upcoming 2021 issue of CTT.



**Darin Grant (O-Gauge)** - Darin received his first train at age five and has had trains since then. His current layout (8' x 20' and 36 years old) is the second expansion of the first layout. It uses wood from his earlier layouts. The layout features a double-track mainline with O-72 curves allowing him to run long trains throughout the uncluttered structures and



scenery. If you are one that has procrastinated about building a layout because you move frequently, during your visit ask Darin about the

basic construction, because whatever he did has allowed the layout to be moved five times! Lunch will be included.

### **LOTS Annual Business Meeting and Future Convention Site Preview**

The annual LOTS Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, August 6 at 8:00 p.m. Your officers will report on the club's activities during the past year and receive your input on various topics. A presentation about the LOTS 43rd Annual Convention will be given as well. Door prizes will be awarded. No fees or tickets are needed. Free to ALL LOTS Members. **Location: Brazilian Ballroom**

### **Kansas Model Train Show**

Saturday, August 7 - Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

All registered LOTS Members and their guests can attend the show, located in the Regency Ballroom at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, free of charge beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 7, as long as they are wearing their 2021 Convention name badges. Remember: Registered LOTS Members get exclusive access to the show until 10:00 a.m.!

### **Annual Banquet**

Saturday, August 7 - Time: 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Adults: \$65.00, Children: \$35.00

The banquet will be held on Saturday, August 7 in the Regency Ballroom at the DoubleTree by Hilton Lawrence Hotel. A cash bar will be available beginning at 6:30 p.m. with dinner served at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be plated and feature your choice of Rosemary Roasted Pork Loin, Lemon Caper Chicken or BBQ Beef Brisket with a salad, starch, vegetable and dessert. Children's meals will be kid-friendly chicken tenders and Tater Tots™.

As with all past LOTS Banquets, door prizes, table favors, and unparalleled camaraderie are also included. **Location: Regency Ballroom**

# LOTS 2021 "Pre"-Convention Registration Form

We hope you've had a healthy and joyous start to the new year, despite the continued challenges posed by the strife in our country and the continued suffering caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. At this time, Covid-19 continues to infect more people in the United States each day. The last two weeks of January 2021 are predicted to be the most tragic month of the pandemic to date. Vaccines are now being administered throughout the country and we are hopeful that we will be able to have our Convention in Lawrence, Kansas - August 1-8, 2021.

Since there is still some level of uncertainty as to whether or not it will be safe to travel to Kansas, we are asking anyone who plans to register for the Convention to let us know as soon as possible. **Your Pre-Registration Form should be submitted on or before May 5, so I get it by May 15.** The Pre-Registration forms will be marked with the date received and will be finalized in the order the forms were received. Paula will contact you, when it's time for you to pay for your registration. Please Pre-Register as early as possible, so you don't miss out. **No money is due at this time!**

**Note: All tours and activities described are subject to availability. Prices may change slightly depending upon availability. The tours have been created for the normal LOTS Convention. If we end up being a smaller group and some places are shutdown, we are confident we can fill the void with another site.**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ LOTS # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Via: Car Air Train

Names of those attending the Convention: \_\_\_\_\_

We are willing to Volunteer at the Convention. Names of helpers: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Registration Fee:</b> One fee covers the Member, spouse or companion, all family members under 18 and includes one set of registration commemoratives. <b>Registration Fee <u>must be paid</u> to participate in the Convention.</b>			\$55	
<b>Guest/Extended Family or Friends (over 18 years of age) Registration Fee (each):</b>			\$10	
<b>Monday, August 2 - Tour #1: Topeka State Capitol, Great Overland Station, and Combat Museum</b>	Adult		\$60	
	Child		\$40	
<b>Tuesday, August 3 - Tour #2: National WW-I Museum and Arabia Steamboat Museum</b>	Adult		\$82	
	Child		\$62	
<b>Wednesday, August 4 - Tour #3: Abilene &amp; Smoky Valley RR Steam Excursion, Eisenhower Museum</b>	Adult		\$95	
	Child		\$75	
<b>Thursday, August 5 - Tour #4: Union Station, Eudaly Home Layout, and Chicago and Alton Depot</b>	Adult		\$65	
	Child		\$45	
<b>Thursday, August 5 - Get Acquainted Party: National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame</b>	Adult		\$72	
	Child		\$45	
<b>Friday, August 6 - Tour #5: Annual Home Layout and Collections Tour</b>	Adult		\$55	
	Child		\$35	
<b>Saturday, August 7: LOTS Annual Banquet</b>	Adult		\$65	
	Child		\$35	
<b>Tables at the Train Show - 8' x 30" tables</b>	# _____		\$30	
<b>Hard Plastic LOTS Membership Badge:</b> _____ Magnetic or _____ Pin Fastener			\$15	
→ <b>RM - _____ Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____</b>				
<b>Convention Bar/Dangle for Membership Badge: "Lawrence, KS '21"</b>			\$3	
			<b>Total Due:</b>	

- Tours are not handicap-accessible.
- All tours are subject to change based upon demand and facility availability.
- Child: ages 2 - 12 years old. Children under 2 are free. Children under 2 must sit on an adult's lap during travel time and lunch is not available.
- No personal vehicles are allowed to follow the buses - NO EXCEPTIONS!

Mail Form to: LOTS 2021 Convention, 6376 W Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247-5704  
or FAX: 866-286-6416 or Pre-Register online at: [www.lots-trains.org](http://www.lots-trains.org)