**A picture containing screenshot, black, design

Description automatically generated**A close-up of a logo

Description automatically generated with low confidence

[www.ChooChooBarn.com](http://www.ChooChooBarn.com) : 717-687-7911 [www.StrasburgTrainShop.com](http://www.StrasburgTrainShop.com) : 717-687-0464

**CREATE THE NEXT GREAT ANIMATION FOR THE CHOO CHOO BARN!**

**Junior High School Student Design Challenge**

Are you a creative problem solver with a passion for design, engineering, and animation? Here's your chance to leave your mark on one of the most iconic model train layouts in the country!

**The Choo Choo Barn is holding a competition** open to all **Junior High School students** to design a brand-new animation for our world-famous model train display in Strasburg, PA!

**WHAT YOU'LL DO:**

* Design and draw your own animated scene or feature.
* Show how it will move using motors and linkages.
* Include scale dimensions for an O-scale (1:48) display.
* Submit your drawings, descriptions, and any additional ideas on how it would work.

**WHAT YOU COULD WIN:**

* 1st Place: $300 prize and your animation brought to life by our talented staff and added to our layout with your name on it! You will also receive 4 Complimentary Tickets to the Choo Choo Barn.
* 2nd Place: $200 prize. You will also receive 4 Complimentary Tickets to the Choo Choo Barn.
* 3rd Place: $100 prize. You will also receive 4 Complimentary Tickets to the Choo Choo Barn.

**COMPETITION GUIDELINES:**

1. **Eligibility:**
   * Open to all students in grades 6 through 8. One participant is allowed per submission. This is not a group project.
   * Must be submitted through a school or teacher representative.
2. **Design Requirements:**
   * Design must be a new and original idea that fits within the theme and spirit of the Choo Choo Barn.
   * Final design must be drawn to **O-scale (1:48)** and include dimensions of scaled project.
   * Must show how the animation will work, including labeled diagrams of **motors, gears, linkages**, or other mechanics required.
   * Include a written explanation (1-2 paragraphs) describing the animation and how it works.
3. **Submission Materials:**
   * Completed design sketches (hand-drawn or digital)
   * Scale drawing with dimensions
   * Mechanical/movement diagram
   * Written description
4. **Deadline:**
   * All entries must be submitted by **6/15/2025** to be eligible for judging.
5. **Judging Criteria:**
   * Creativity and originality
   * Functionality and engineering feasibility
   * Accuracy of scale and clarity of drawings
   * Quality of explanation
6. **How to Submit:**
   * Fill out the submission form (linked on the website) and then send with your design
   * Mail or deliver entries to: **Choo Choo Barn Animation Contest**  
     226 Gap Road, PO Box 130, Strasburg, PA 17579
   * Or email to: **Rae@choochoobarn.com** with subject line "Student Animation Contest"

**Bring your imagination to life, and become part of Choo Choo Barn history!**

**Questions?** Contact us at **717-687-7911** and ask for Rae. Or you can contact us by emailing **Rae@choochoobarn.com.**

*Let's inspire the next generation of makers and engineers, one animation at a time!*