



We welcome you to the FIRST EVER Joint Hill Lines Convention sponsored by the GNRHS, the NPRHA and the SP&SRHS. You are invited to join us in St. Paul, Minnesota beginning on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, and running through Sunday, September 14, 2025. Tuesday and Sunday are OPTIONAL event days; the Convention convenes the evening of Tuesday, September 9 with a "Meet and Greet"; presentations will start Wednesday, September 10; the Convention ends with the banquet on Saturday evening, September 13, 2025.

**REGISTER USING THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM OR REGISTER ON-LINE AT:**

[www.hilllines2025.com](http://www.hilllines2025.com)

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### **CONVENTION HOTEL**

The St. Paul Downtown Doubletree Hotel is located at 411 Minnesota St. The nightly room rate for this convention is \$125 + tax. Both King and Double Queen Rooms are available. This rate is good from September 9 through September 14, 2025.

**YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR ROOM BEFORE SUNDAY, AUGUST 17.** The convention room block will be closed on that date and rooms will not be available at the group rate if you reserve after August 17.

The best option is to book directly with the hotel at 651-291-8800 and refer to Group Code 907 to get your group rate.

You can also book rooms online by going to:

[WWW.HILTON.COM/EN/ATTEND-MY-EVENT/HILL-LINES-2025-NATIONAL-CONVENTION/](http://WWW.HILTON.COM/EN/ATTEND-MY-EVENT/HILL-LINES-2025-NATIONAL-CONVENTION/)

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### **INCLUDED WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE**

» James J. Hill's Saint Paul, A Guide to Historic Sites, a special print edition made available by permission of the James and Mary Hill Foundation. This printed document is no longer available for public purchase and will only be made available to convention attendees.

» A Railroad Map of the Twin City Terminal Area dated October 1934. This map shows the 1934 routes of following railways: Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific; Great Northern; Northern Pacific; Chicago, St.

Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha; Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault St. Marie; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; Minneapolis & St. Louis; Chicago, Great Western; Mpls, Northfield & Southern; Minnesota Western; Minnesota Transfer; and Mpls, Anoka & Cuyuna Range Rwy.

- » Access to all scheduled tours, including the pre-convention scenic RT train ride from Osceola to Withrow Junction (extra fare)
- » Access to the Swap Meet
- » Access to all presentations. Many topics and speakers have been scheduled.
- » Opportunity to visit area model railroad layouts.
- » Opportunity to visit the St. Paul Union Depot and view GN 400 Hustle Muscle, NP 3617 and SP&S Baggage Car 66 (pending confirmation of move of this equipment by BNSF to St. Paul)
- » AND BEST OF ALL – the opportunity to greet old friends and meet new friends!

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## **FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS**

The hotel has a small restaurant on site; it does NOT serve a free breakfast. There are many counter service eateries, restaurants, coffee shops and places to enjoy craft beers and spirits in the skyway and within walking distance of the hotel. We will provide you with information about this at the registration table.

**Convention Banquet: 6:30 Saturday (Priced Separately) --** We will have a plated dinner with choices of:

- » Grilled chicken, Garlic Green Beans, Roasted Potato, Dijon cream sauce
- » Roasted Pork Medallions, Apple Confit, Goat Cheese Potato Gratin
- » Butternut Squash Ravioli, Rosemary Herb Cream, Wilted Spinach. Balsamic Reduction (Vegetarian Choice)

All meals will include a salad, rolls/butter, dessert and Lavazza Coffee Service

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## **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

### **PRE-CONVENTION TRAIN RIDE ABOARD THE MTM OSCEOLA EXCURSION TRAIN**

Arrive early and you can experience a round-trip ride aboard the MTM Osceola Excursion Train. You will board your bus at 11 am at the Convention Hotel for a 1-hour ride to Osceola, Wisconsin, where you will board the excursion train. The 3-hour train round trip will take you from Osceola, Wisconsin crossing the St. Croix River into Minnesota through scenic northern Washington County to Withrow Junction. The train will turn at Withrow Junction and make the return trip to Osceola where you will take your bus back to the hotel arriving back in St. Paul at approximately 5 pm. A box lunch will be provided. Docents will be on board to answer questions. **There is a limit of 110 Participants for this extra fare tour so REGISTER EARLY.**



George Speir. Singer collection BRHS Archives

## **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

### **JACKSON STREET ROUNDHOUSE AND MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM TOUR**

**Visit the GN and NP Archives at the Jackson Street Roundhouse!** Your Archives volunteers will lead a tour of the archives and tell you all about how you can access GN and NP historical documents for research and modeling purposes. This is an important historical resource for all to access!

**And tour the Minnesota Transportation Museum!** Hear about the restoration efforts undertaken at the MTM. See the work being done on James J. Hill's Business Car (located at a restoration site about 5 miles from MTM) and the GN International Coach-Diner 1146. See the CB&Q Doodlebug and many other exhibits. Access all the restoration bays at the Roundhouse as well as the main exhibit hall at the Museum. Docents and guides will be available to answer questions and talk about the Museum's important work in preserving and restoring railroad history. This is a private event for our group. Bus transportation will be provided to MTM and the James J. Hill A-18 Business Car Restoration site; an entry ticket must be purchased on the convention registration form to enter the museum on this date. You may decide to drive your own car, but there will be NO discount on the entry fee for using your own transportation. Entry tickets will be collected at the door.

## **WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 TO 12**

**PRESENTATIONS: AGENDA WILL BE POSTED ON CONVENTION WEB PAGE**

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

### **SWAP MEET**

Get your table(s) early for this year's JOINT EVENT with the NPRHA, GNRHS and the SP&SRHS. Set-up for this event will start at 7 am; doors will open to convention attendees at 9 am. The Swap Meet will be open to the public at 10 am. If you have any questions about participating in the Swap Meet, please contact Bob Kelly at [mvmvm@comcast.net](mailto:mvmvm@comcast.net). Display your models, photos, and collectibles during the Swap Meet. We encourage attendees to discuss with each other for sharing, troubleshooting, and learning. Your projects do not need to be finished, and we will not be having a contest.

### **TOUR THE JAMES J. HILL HOUSE**

Tour the house built for railroad titan James J. Hill. This 36,000-square-foot Gilded Age mansion was once the largest private residence in the State of Minnesota. With 13 bathrooms, 22 fireplaces, 16 chandeliers, a reception hall nearly 100 feet long, and a two-story, skylit art gallery, the house was a symbol of success, personal taste and family life. You will have a 60-minute guided tour of the entire house and self-guided access to the first floor of the mansion. Guided tours are limited to 25 people at a time; we will be forming a group of 50 people per hour divided into two touring groups each hour and we will stagger our groups to start at 1 pm and end at 3 pm (so tours at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm). Bus transportation will be provided. We have been advised that parking at the site is extremely limited, so we strongly encourage everyone to plan bus transportation. A ticket will be required to board the bus and to join the tour. A discount will not be given if you choose to use your own car for transportation to the site. **Participation is limited to 150 people so REGISTER EARLY.**



## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

### **MODEL RAILROAD LAYOUT TOURS 10 AM to 3 PM (TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Six to eight local model railroad layouts will be open to tour for our registered attendees. These will be “on your own” by private vehicle. We strongly encourage ridesharing due to limited parking at homes. A navigation system such as Google Maps, Apple Maps, or Waze is essential. Addresses and further information will be provided at the convention.