

IPMS Rob Wolf Chapter Annual Cutthroat Gift Exchange Rules (2008)

The holiday season represents a time of cheer and goodwill that is celebrated by the IPMS Rob Wolf Chapter through its annual Cutthroat Gift Exchange. In the spirit of giving, the intention of this event is to allow every participant the opportunity to give a gift to a random club member in exchange for a gift from another random club member. Participation in the Cutthroat Gift Exchange is strictly voluntary, though highly encouraged. If for any reason you feel that you do not wish to participate, please feel free not to take part in the proceedings. But at the same time, you are certainly welcome to observe and enjoy the gift exchange debauchery.

Please note that It is not the intent of this event to offer a chance to dispose of unwanted (by anyone) items of low value or “auction orphans”. Rather, it is an opportunity to share in the holiday gift-giving spirit by providing a fellow club member with a gift that will be much appreciated.

The Rules:

1. To participate in the Annual Cutthroat Gift Exchange, you must submit a gift. Sign your name on the gift itself (on the bottom if possible) and gift wrap it. The gift must be model-related which includes model kits, books, tools, aftermarket items, etc. Keep in mind that the recipient may not share your specific esoteric modeling interests so please ensure that the item is of general interest or if of a specific interest, that it is a “high value” item with “steal appeal” (see item 6 below).
 - a) A good rule-of-thumb for the gift value is \$25 or equivalent value.
 - b) Another good rule-of-thumb: bring a gift that you would like to receive yourself.
 - c) The item must be of generally acceptable quality (e.g. no Lindberg kits please).
 - d) **New Rule:** Multiple gifts submitted by a single participant will be bundled together to make a single gift (see item 3 below).
 - e) It is permitted to submit more than one item in order to create a single gift bundle. For example, a kit with an attached aftermarket decal sheet or photoetch set is perfectly acceptable.
 - f) Model kit gifts must be:
 - A) New in original unopened condition
 - B) Or if opened:
 - 1 - Must include ALL original - parts, decals, instructions, and box.
 - 2 - All parts and decals must be undamaged, unwarped, and useable.
 - 3 - Must be completely unassembled and unpainted.
 - g) **New Rule:** Any participant who fails to follow these rules on opened model kit gifts may be eliminated from the current Cutthroat Gift Exchange at the discretion of the IPMS Rob Wolf Chapter President or acting President. If a participant is excluded for cause from the Cutthroat Gift Exchange, the excluded person receives their originally submitted gift(s) and the victimized person either exchanges gifts with the offender or draws/steals another gift if the expelled has not yet drawn. Gift recipients are solely responsible for inspecting opened gift kits upon acquisition in a timely manner and should report policy violations as soon as they are discovered. No action will be taken to address open gift kit problems reported after the conclusion of the Gift Exchange.

Please give due consideration to your gift choice to ensure that it meets the stated gift exchange criteria in order to avoid implementing this policy,

2. Submit your gift at the gift table on your arrival at the Cutthroat Gift Exchange meeting. Submission of a gift at the start of the Cutthroat Gift Exchange meeting is your admission to participate in this event.
3. Numbers will be placed into a hat equal to the number of participants.
New Rule: Each participant will receive only one number, regardless of the number of gifts submitted by a single participant (see 1.d above).
4. Each participant will draw a number from the hat. This drawn number will define the numerical order in which each participant will draw from the gift pool.
5. When it is a participant's turn, he/she may either:
 - a) Choose an unopened gift from the gift table and open it.
 - OR
 - b) Appropriate (OK, steal) a gift that has already been opened by a previous number holder (the participant with Number 1 is an exception).
6. If the current participant has chosen to steal a gift from another gift holder, the victimized gift holder then gets to choose another gift from the table or perform the same dastardly act on another gift holder. The stealing continues until another wrapped gift is opened. This particular rule explains the origin the Cutthroat Gift Exchange event name.

New rule: There will be no limit to the number of times that a gift can be stolen during the Cutthroat Gift Exchange and no gifts will be taken out of circulation. However, a specific gift may only be stolen once during a single participant's turn. This new rule is intended to create a fair opportunity for people with high numbers to snag an item that was opened early in the gift exchange. It will also serve to liven up the proceedings. This rule will be instituted for 2008 and reviewed afterwards for effectiveness and use in future Cutthroat Gift Exchanges.

7. This cycle continues until everyone has had a chance to open or steal a gift based on their drawn number.
8. At the end, the person who drew Number 1 gets to size up everyone else's loot and either retains his/her gift or commits one last act of 'thievery' and trades their gift with one final hapless soul. This final action concludes the formal Cutthroat Gift Exchange.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!.....

9. You don't have to be stuck with an unwanted gift! After the conclusion of the formal Cutthroat Gift Exchange, Wheeling and Dealing involving gift trades or cash purchases is highly encouraged. It's highly likely that if you ended up with something you're less than enthusiastic about, so did someone else. It's also likely that you will be able to trade or sell your gift for (or purchase) someone else's gift that you want in exchange for your item which the other person wants (huh?).
10. Everyone goes home happy and full of holiday cheer!