

# **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The Nickel City Line Certification Program is designed to train and reward operators for hours of operations in various positions on the railroad. There are five categories in which operators can certify in: Engineer, Yardmaster, Hostler, Towerman and Dispatcher.

All new operators start off as Trainees. Trainees are assigned to the Extra Board. If a vacancy is available on the operators list, a Trainee will move up and perform one or more assigned tasks. Each Trainee starts out with 0 hours in all categories.

As trainees put in more hours on the railroad they earn hours towards a number of certifications. A Trainee will receive a certificate for each 10 hours completed in each of the five categories mentioned above. For the first 10 hours in a single category, a Trainee becomes “Certified” in that particular category. For example, when a trainee completes 10 hours in the Engineer category, the trainee receives a certificate as a Certified Engineer.

When a Certified member completes 20 hours in a single category they receive an “Advanced” certificate in that category. When a Advanced member completes 30 hours in a single category they receive a “Master” certificate in that category.

Trainees can also obtain Operator certifications for completing minimum hours in multiple categories. The three Operator certifications are: Certified Railroad Operator, Advanced Railroad Operator and Master Railroad Operator. To meet the requirements of each category, the operator must complete the following:

## **Certified Railroad Operator:**

- Complete 50 hours of operation.
- Obtain certification in 4 of 5 categories (Engineer, Yardmaster, Towerman, Hostler or Dispatcher).
- Two of the four categories certified in must be Hostler and Dispatcher.

Members who meet the requirements for Certified Railroad Operator also meet the hour requirements for the NMRA Chief Dispatcher Achievement Program Certification.

## **Advanced Railroad Operator:**

- Complete 90 hours of operation.
- Obtain certification in 3 of 5 categories (Engineer, Yardmaster, Towerman, Hostler or Dispatcher).
- Two of the three categories certified in must be Hostler and Dispatcher.

## **Master Railroad Operator**

- Complete 130 hours of operation.

- Obtain certification in 3 of 5 categories (Engineer, Yardmaster, Towerman, Hostler or Dispatcher).
- Two of the three categories certified in must be Hostler and Dispatcher.

Seniority on the railroad is determined in the following order: Operator Certification Level, number of hours on the railroad, certification within a single category, number of hours within a single category.

Figure 1 maps out the certification program.

**Figure 1 – Nickel City Line Certification Program**

