



Yes, it's the M-LETTER!
HalloweeM 2025 - October 30 – November 2

On behalf of our entire HalloweeM TeaM, we're thrilled to present **HalloweeM 49: It's Hip to Be (7) Squared!** We want everyone to have a totally tubular time, and we're excited to welcome back all our friends, both old and new! Use the information in this letter to guide you on your most excellent journey for an amazing weekend. This is a long letter, but it's also a long weekend. We've tried to be as comprehensive as possible with everything you'll need for your WeeM journey, but if you have any questions, [please check out our website](#), or contact one of our chairs. Feel free to share this information with others who will be attending the gathering with you.

Contact Information

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[Download a PDF copy of this document from our website](#). Changes or last-minute updates, including the Programs At A Glance ([our PAAG](#)), will be posted at our website: chicago.us.mensa.org/weem

Registration aka Beginning your Bodacious Journey

Please bring your ID with you when you pick up your badge. Each adult registrant needs to pick up their own badge.

On-Site Registration Desk

We will have the registration desk open starting at 3 PM on Thursday so that you can pick up your badge. Registration will be open Friday from 8:30 AM to 12 PM and from 3 PM to 8 PM; and on Saturday from 10 AM to 12 PM. If you arrive at a time that registration is closed, check the desk for posted instructions. If you need to add a day to your registration, you can do that at registration as well. Registration will accept cash, checks, or credit cards.

If you registered ahead of time but did not pay by October 17, you will have to register and pay the on-site registration amount. Those prices are:

Adults (age 21 or older on 10/30/2025)			Ages 9-20 (on 10/30/2025)		
<u>Full Registration</u>	<u>Single Day Passes</u>		<u>Full Registration</u>	<u>Single Day Passes</u>	
\$165	Thursday	\$30	\$100	Thursday	\$20
	Friday or	\$80		Friday or	\$50
	Saturday			Saturday	
	Sunday	\$10		Sunday	\$10
Non-members (ages 9+): Add \$10 per non-member Ages 8 and under: Free with registered adult (Kids' Room babysitting fee of \$30 per day per child, or \$75 per child for the whole weekend) Meals (except Saturday dinner) are included.					

Hospitality

Help us provide the grub for everyone to scarf! We urgently need your help in hospitality! Please sign up in advance, so we know we have enough staffing for mealtimes. Help keep your fellow WeeM-Goers fed and happy by [signing up for a meal shift](#).

Our menu is posted on the [Meals/Hospitality section of the website](#), but please be forgiving of any last-minute substitutions and changes as our head count becomes finalized. We will do our best to have a vegetarian option available at each meal.

THOSE WITH DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE NOTE

We are no longer able to mark foods as V or GF unless the manufacturer has labeled them that way. There are far fewer V and almost no GF labeled foods available from our distributor. Ingredient lists will be available on-site in Hospitality.

*****We are preparing food in a shared hospitality prep area, using [volunteers](#) and hotel staff, to serve meals to a large crowd. We cannot guarantee that items are free from cross contamination. Ingredient lists will be available on-site. But if you do have severe/life-threatening allergies, we recommend you take precautions to minimize your risk since our volunteers focus on replenishing the food, snacks, and beverages and are not trained to address dietary concerns.*****

The hospitality serving area will be a ONE WAY flow. Entry for all meals will be via the South Door ONLY (by the restrooms). In the serving area, volunteers will plate your meals. Exit will be into the usual seating area. Drinks and snacks will be located in different areas to help minimize traffic. Thank you for your understanding! Many of the snacks and other items will be in single-serve containers. Please limit yourself to what you intend to consume at that time. There will be plenty of food put out at regular intervals, so no need to stock up! All food must be

consumed in hospitality or the games room. No food may be consumed in the public hallways or sitting areas.

The snack table will be available after 4:00 PM Thursday, and our catered dinner will be served from 7:00 to 8:30 that evening. All three breakfasts run from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM; both Friday and Saturday lunches are from 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM; and Friday night's dinner will be from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Please let families with young children go first on Friday night so that they can make it to the Kids' Costume Contest. Saturday dinner will be on your own. Visit one of the great restaurants in the area!

Between 2:00 AM to 10:00 AM, no alcohol will be served.

*****POLICY FOR ALCOHOL-RELATED EVENTS*****

In addition to Pretentious Drinking, this year we're excited to offer you three alcohol-related programs: Thursday's Whiskey Tasting, Friday's Wine and Cheese Tasting, and Saturday's Retsina Wine Tasting. Since space at each of these programs is limited, we want to give all our attendees an equal opportunity to participate in these events. As such, when you attend, your badge will be punched, and you will not be able to attend another unless there is still space available 5 minutes after the program has started. Please arrive early for your program, as they are expected to max out. **This policy does NOT affect attendance at Pretentious Drinking, which, as always, is open to all attendees over the age of 21.**

*****NEW THIS YEAR:**

- You MUST bring a form of ID to prove you are over 21 for all alcohol related events, including Pretentious Drinking.
- All alcohol must be consumed in the room where it is served, including alcohol from hospitality.
- No hard alcohol is permitted in the hospitality area.

HELP MAKE THIS WEEKEND MOST TRIUMPHANT

. . . by signing up for a volunteer gig! Volunteers have 50% more fun and are 33% more attractive! (And no RG can get off the ground without them.) To really drive this event and meet lots of new friends, consider volunteering for a 2-hour shift in Hospitality, Registration, Set-up, or Clean-up. Everyone who volunteers 4 or more hours will earn a collectible Halloween pin. Volunteers will also be entered into our volunteer raffle, which includes Amazon and other gift cards as prizes. Raffle winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Sunday morning. Want a better chance to win? You get double for truck and some Hospitality shifts. We are going digital and doing away with the sign-up board. Look for the QR codes around WeeM, or, if you don't have a smart phone, stop for help at the volunteer desk outside of registration. You can sign up to volunteer in advance at https://cam.ivolunteer.com/weem_2025. If you're not leaving immediately on Sunday, please consider staying for a shift to clean up.

What to pack

Chicago in October can vary from the 30s to the 80s (that's Fahrenheit, or about 0 - 25 Celsius). We suggest you dress in layers as the temperature in the different rooms can vary. RG wear is dressy to casual -- wear what you want! Bring a costume for Friday night, and don't forget to pack your fancy outfit for the Pretentious Drinking and the dance on Saturday night if you'd like! Also, bring your swimsuit or exercise clothes if you're staying at the hotel and plan to use their pool or fitness center. We've had some comments that the hotel is very dry. There are water stations set up around the event, and we recommend bringing a reusable water bottle to cut down on plastic waste.

A Few Policies to Note

HalloweeM will be a friendly and safe environment for our attendees. Unwelcome physical contact, verbal abuse, and other forms of harassment will not be tolerated. If you have concerns or need to report misconduct, find someone wearing a white hat, or, if you need immediate and direct intervention for your personal safety, go to the hotel lobby and request assistance from security at the front desk. Those engaged in harassing behavior may be removed from the event without a refund.

Please note that due to concerns from the hotel staff, only authorized volunteers will be allowed in the service corridors and hotel kitchen. People who are in this area without permission risk having their badges revoked and being asked to leave the event.

Additionally, in keeping with Chicago Area Mensa's pet policy, no non-human animals are allowed in any event space (hospitality or speaker/meeting rooms), with the exception of service animals, as defined by Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The handler is responsible for the care and supervision of the animal, including cleaning up after the animal. The ADA guidelines on Service Animals should be used if questions arise. Pets are allowed in guest rooms. It is recommended that you check the Westin's pet policy on the [hotel's information sheet](#) and contact them for additional information.

You must have your registration badge visible while in any event space. If you see someone without a badge, please notify a friendly member of the WeeM TeaM or one of our White Hats, who will be easily noticed by the snazzy White Hats they wear.

Those under 21 will be issued yellow badges. In keeping with Illinois law, they will not be allowed to consume alcohol. Anyone caught breaking this rule will have their badges revoked and be asked to leave immediately.

Book Sale:

We will be accepting donations of new and used books at HalloweeM. The more, the merrier! You may bring your donation directly to the Book Sale area (next to Hospitality) at any time on

Thursday or Friday. We will gladly accept books of any genre (children's, science, math, history, mystery, puzzles and games, cookbooks, romance, fiction, SF and fantasy, non-fiction, religion, occult, biographies, self-help, reference, materials of an adult nature, et cetera), along with cassettes (audio and/or video), CDs, DVDs, and books on tape. We **cannot** accept magazines or vinyl (records), outdated textbooks, or "white elephant" items. This year all proceeds go to [Bernie's Book Bank](#), which transforms children's lives through book ownership by sourcing, processing, and distributing free high-quality books to children who need them most. The sale will open Thursday evening and be available 24 hours a day until 11:00 AM on Sunday morning.

Kids at Halloween

There is a Youth PAAG, to help your kiddo navigate all the fun activities at WeeM. For kids 3 to 9, there is a Kids Room, with scheduled events in a controlled environment. Supervised programming will be available in the Kids Room. General Kids Room hours are as follows:

Friday: 4 PM -11 PM

Saturday: 9 AM-12 PM; 1 PM-5:30 PM; 7 PM-11PM

Sunday: 9 AM -12 PM

IMPORTANT: We are working hard to create a program that appeals to and enriches kids, rather than one that just gives parents somewhere to drop the kid while they go play. It is important to remember that children and their behavior are ultimately the responsibility of their parents. For the children's safety, a responsible adult must sign each child in and out of the kids room every time the child leaves or rejoins the program. Parents must remain in the hotel at all times when their children are participating in Kids Track activities. If any child proves to be uncontrollable or dangerous, their parents will be asked to remove that child from the room, and they will not be allowed to participate further. The rules we are imposing are for your children's safety - we ask for your cooperation. You should pick up your kids and visit hospitality when the kids' room is closed for meal breaks or whenever you are hungry.

Hotel Information

****Our room block has closed. If you find that you no longer need your reservation, please offer it up on our Facebook event page, or [contact our room sharing coordinator](#).**** Our hotel is the Westin North Shore in Wheeling, IL. The address is 601 N. Milwaukee Avenue Wheeling (60090); the hotel is at the southeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road, north of Dundee. We have directions for all common modes of transportation posted on [the Directions page](#) of our website.

The hotel is 100% NON-SMOKING. There will be areas designated outside for smoking, but please be aware that hotel policy and local law do not allow smoking in any public areas or guest rooms. The hotel has free self-parking in the adjacent lot; complimentary valet parking is available for guests with accessibility challenges (appropriate permits may be required). There are an indoor pool and fitness center available for hotel guests. Complimentary wi-fi Internet is available in the lobby, and paid Internet access is available in guest rooms. For more

information, please visit the [Lodging page](#) on our website. You can also contact our Hotel Liaison with any questions: [WeeM Hotel Liaison](#).

Room Sharing

If you're looking for a roommate, please visit the [Room Sharing page](#), and our matchmaker will help you coordinate with someone, if possible. Or post a message on-site on our whiteboard.

Programs, Games, and Tournaments

We have so much for you to do that your biggest challenge will be when to sleep!

[Programs](#) start at 5:00 PM on Thursday and continue through Sunday afternoon. Kid-, teen-, and tween-friendly programs will be designated with a + or a ++ on the PAAG. Our [Games](#) Room will be open by 4:00 PM on Thursday and will remain open 24 hours a day for the rest of the weekend. You can check our [list of board games on BoardGameGeek](#) so you know what to expect and what to bring.

We have several tournaments planned this year, with volunteer hosts running the tournaments. Have fun and make sure to be a good guest. That means cleaning up when you're done and helping out if you see a need. Second, a simple request: if you have copies of 7 WONDERS, please bring them! We have a tournament planned but need a few extra copies of the games.

See you at WeeM!