



Yes, it's the M-LETTER!

On behalf of our entire HalloweeM team, we'd like to say we're thrilled you've elected to join us for **HalloweeM 45: The Vinyl Frontier**! We've been working hard to bring you a safe and fun WeeM this year. Please feel free to share this information with others who will be attending the gathering with you, particularly if they are not subscribed to our WeeM e-mail list.

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

This e-mail is quite long and covers a large variety of topics: More information is available on our website (linked above), or you can ask questions by contacting the weem-chair@chicago.us.mensa.org.

COVID-19

*****Please note that you must be vaccinated to attend all sponsored events with alcohol this year. If you have a medical exemption to the vaccine and would like to attend, you MUST contact the WeeM chair in advance at weem-chair@chicago.us.mensa.org.**

MASKS ARE REQUIRED:

- Masks must cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face without gaps. Masks can be either homemade or manufactured, and should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, or punctures. No mesh or lace masks will be allowed.
 - Neck gaiters are acceptable if they follow the above guidelines
 - Bandanas are not acceptable
 - Face shields or goggles are not acceptable on their own but can be worn with a mask that follows the above guidelines
- Masks may only be removed while actively eating or drinking in hospitality (Ravinia C and D).
 - Masks must be worn while attending all speaker sessions
 - Masks must be worn while playing games in the game room (Ravinia A and B). A quick sip of a drink is acceptable while gaming: sitting at a table without masks in this area is not
 - Masks must be worn when getting food in hospitality, when getting drinks at Pretentious Drinking, and when getting food at Epicurean Experience
- If you need a break from wearing a mask, we recommend taking a walk on one of the nearby nature paths or taking a brief break in your hotel room.

- Those who consistently do not follow the mask guidelines may be asked to leave the event without a refund.

Vaccinations:

- Stickers or stamps will be added to the badges of those who have been vaccinated and choose to disclose their vaccination status. A copy or photo of your vaccination card will be acceptable as long as the name and date of birth are clearly visible.
- PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINE IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY TO THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:
 - The Wonderful World of Whiskey (Thursday evening)
 - Curative Cocktails (Friday evening)
 - Pretentious Drinking (Saturday evening)
 - If you have a medical reason for not being vaccinated, please reach out to the WeeM Chair at WeeM-Chair@chicago.us.mensa.org for a special exemption to attend PD only. This MUST be done prior to WeeM. No exemptions will be granted on site.

Registration aka Docking Bay

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

THOSE WITH DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE NOTE

Due to lower attendance and health concerns, we will not have the full hospitality spread and salad bar that our attendees are used to. We will do our best to accommodate everyone and serve a variety of food, but our priority is on safety this year. If you're registered and you have a special dietary restriction you need accommodated, please contact our amazing Hospitality Co-Chair, Susan Woodill, at Susanwoodillcam@gmail.com.

Hospitality aka Ten Forward

COVID Protocols:

Since our replicator technology is a few years off, we urgently need your help in hospitality. All shifts must be signed up for in advance, so we know we have enough staffing for mealtimes. Please help keep your fellow WeeM-Goers fed and happy by [signing up for a meal shift](#).

The hospitality serving area will be a ONE WAY flow this year. Entry for all meals will be via the South Door ONLY (by the restrooms). In the serving area, masked 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 and keep everyone safe. 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 (Ravinia C and D), or in your hotel room, if you prefer. No food may be consumed in the public hallways or sitting areas, and no snacks will be allowed in games or speaker rooms this year.

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. Ingredient lists will be available at each meal.

The snack table will be available after 3:30 PM Thursday, and our catered dinner will be served from 7 to 8:30 that evening. Please note some slight adjustments to our meal times: all three breakfasts now run from 8 AM to 9:30 AM; both Friday and Saturday lunches are now from 12 PM to 1:15 PM: and Friday night's dinner will be from 6 PM to 7:30 PM.

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

UNLIKE THE KOBAYASHI MARU, EVERYONE WINS

. . . when you volunteer! Volunteers have 50% more fun and are 33% more attractive! (And no RG can get off the ground without them.) To really tune in to the 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 a \$50 Amazon gift card as the main prize. Raffle winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Sunday morning. Want a better chance to win? You get double entries for signing up for a shift prior to Thursday, October 28th! You also get double entries for Hospitality and setup shifts as well as shifts labeled "warp-speed" on our in person sign-up board during WeeM. Additionally, this year you can earn triple tickets by signing up for clean-up shifts or any shift labeled, "trans-warp," on our in person sign-up board during WeeM. You can sign up to volunteer in advance by filling out the [volunteer form](#). If you're not leaving immediately on Sunday, please consider staying for a shift to clean up, New this year all volunteers who sign-up to clean up will be entered into an exclusive second raffle drawing with a surprise grand prize!

Hotel Information

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, hot tub, 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](#).

A Few Policies to Note

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) unless they are service animals. Pets are still allowed in guest rooms. It is recommended that you check the Westin's pet policy on the [hotel's information webpage](#) 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 member of the Peace Force. You can recognize them by their white hats.

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.

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.

Room and Ride Sharing

If you're looking for a roommate or to share a ride from the airport, please fill out the [Room and Ride Sharing form](#) by Oct. 24th, and our Room and Ride matchmaker will help you coordinate with someone, if possible.

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. Please note that registration will only accept cash or checks. We are not able to accept credit cards.

NOTICE: Please be prepared to show ID and Vaccination card—this will be your only chance to get the vaccine stamp/sticker.

If you registered ahead of time but did not pay by October 15, you will have to register and pay the on-site registration amount. Those prices are:

Adults (age 21 or older on 10/28/2021)			Ages 9-20 (on 10/28/2021)		
<u>Full Registration</u>	<u>Single Day Passes</u>		<u>Full Registration</u>	<u>Single Day Passes</u>	
\$100	Thursday	\$20	\$80	Thursday	\$10
	Friday or Saturday	\$50		Friday or Saturday	\$30
	Sunday	\$10		Sunday	\$10
<p>Non-members (ages 9+): Add \$10 per non-member</p> <p>Ages 8 and under: Free with registered adult (Kids' Room babysitting fee of \$15 per day per child)</p> <p>Meals (except Saturday dinner) are included. T-shirts and other logoed merchandise can be purchased through our Zazzle site.</p>					

Programs, Games, and Tournaments

We have so much for you to do that your biggest challenge will be when to sleep! [Programs](#) start at 6 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 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 SEVEN WONDERS, please bring them! We have a tournament planned but need a few extra copies of the game.

Excursions

This year, we're offering an excursion to the Ray Bradbury Experience Museum and walking tour. Registration is now closed. If you would like to be added to a waitlist, or if you signed up and cannot attend, please contact the [Excursions Chair](#). If you signed up, you should have received your confirmation e-mail. If you did not receive it, please contact the Excursions Chair.

See you at WeeM!