

Proposal to Host the World Diplomacy Convention 2027 at Weasel Moot

Windy City Weasels

Our City

Chicago is one of North America's great cities, famed for its distinctive skyline and architecture, world-class museums and theatres, as well as excellent shopping and other entertainment. It's also legendary for great food, from Michelin-starred fine-dining to ethnic neighborhood restaurants and Chicago-style pizza and hot dogs. Chicago is conveniently located in a central region of the continent and easily accessible via two major airports.

Our Club

The Windy City Weasels are one of the longest continuously running local Diplomacy clubs in the world. We were founded in 2006 and are about to start our 20th league season. Our experience running Diplomacy tournaments includes hosting our signature tournament, Weasel Moot, held annually since 2007.

The Weasels pioneered the use of codes of conduct in Diplomacy, becoming the first club to adopt one in 2016. In 2018, our club officers served on the committee to develop the NADF code of conduct. Creating a welcoming, enjoyable, and inclusive Diplomacy community has been our top priority.

In addition, we have proven our ability to manage high-stakes events involving players from around the world, having hosted WDC in 2012 and 2016; we will also be hosting NA Dipcon later this year. (Before the Weasel era, Chicago also hosted NA Dipcon four times in the 1970s.)

Our club's board, known as the Sneak, is composed of the following club officers:

Prime Weasel: Bryan Pravel

Vice Weasel: Kevin O'Kelly

War Weasel: Brandon Fogel

At-large board member: Chris Kelly

The Weasels are deeply involved in supporting the broader Diplomacy community. Bryan and Brandon are two of the co-founders of the Diplomacy Broadcast Network (along with Zachary Moore), and they, along with Kevin, currently serve on the DBN

board. Founded to help the hobby navigate the pandemic, DBN has provided coverage of Diplomacy competitions around the world for the past 5 years, drawing in new players and helping them refine their skills. The DBN Invitational provides a capstone to each Diplomacy season, a series of high-stakes games that draw global attention.

Venue

Chicago has an extensive array of hotels that can support events the size of the WDC. We have lined up two particularly attractive options.

The first is the Springhill Suites in Park Ridge, right by O'Hare airport. This hotel provides a high-quality stay while also being convenient and relatively inexpensive — all rooms are suites, the airport is a quick, free shuttle ride away, and there is a short walk to the Blue Line subway heading directly downtown. DipCon 2025 at Weasel Moot will be hosted at this location and we are excited for feedback from attendees. Room rates are just \$129/night; the lower cost of the event space has enabled us to keep the tournament registration fee at \$60 (\$50 before Sep 1).

The second option is the Warwick Allerton, an official Chicago landmark hotel built in 1924 and recently renovated. It sits on Michigan Avenue, right in the middle of the prime “Magnificent Mile” shopping area near the heart of the city, with great restaurants and nightlife nearby. It has a gorgeous two-story ballroom that would be perfect for a large Diplomacy tournament. It also has reasonable rates for the downtown area, \$190-\$210/night. We would anticipate registration fees around \$80 for this venue.

Our plan is to talk with tournament-goers and see which option would generate the best attendance — lower-cost and less-frills near the airport or a more upscale neighborhood in the city center. This year's DipCon at Weasel Moot will provide a valuable test run of the lower-cost option. A decision on the venue would be made by early 2026.

The Tournament

We anticipate a four or five round tournament played over a single weekend in September or October, with one or two rounds on Friday, two on Saturday, and one on Sunday. A top board or cut line with multiple top boards is likely. The September-October period tends to be the most appealing time to visit Chicago in terms of weather, with mild temperatures and a lower chance of rain compared to the summer months.

As with all Weasel Moots, the Weasels and NADF codes of conduct would be in effect and emphasized at the start of each round.

We intend to form a committee of hobbyists from around the world to help promote the tournament and give feedback on tournament structure decisions and plans for social activities.

Tourism Options and Social Activities

Chicago offers a great variety of tourist activities for those wishing to extend their stay before or after the tournament. The following are some great options for group outings that we would look to organize in the week leading up to the tournament:

- A downtown river cruise architecture tour
- Bowling at the Diversey River Bowl (site of Weasel Moot XI in 2017)
- An evening of jazz at the Green Mill or blues at Kingston Mines
- A baseball game (a Cubs game at Wrigley Field on the north side or a White Sox game at Rate Field on the south side)
- An afternoon in Chinatown
- A gangster or Untouchables tour of infamous Chicago historical locations
- A bike ride along the lakefront bike path (up to 20 miles)

Thanks

The World Diplomacy Convention is one of the hobby's oldest and most cherished active institutions. Caring and careful stewardship will be required to ensure that it continues as a truly representative gathering point for the global face-to-face community.

We are honored to be considered for this important task.

The Sneak
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