

2024 Conference Location FAQ



Q: Why stay in the same location for multiple years?

- There are countless location-specific details when planning a conference. These include lodging, the food, the conference room, shared spaces, the website, travel info, shuttles, etc. By remaining in the same location from year to year, these details can be replicated more easily, making simple adjustments to improve. When conference logistical planning remains relatively stable year to year, the Volunteer Conference Planning Committee saves countless hours. This saved time can be spent on building other programs, improving the conference from prior years, and focusing on other organizational management tasks.

Q: Is planning the conference OCAMPR's only focus?

- OCAMPR has instituted many offerings beyond the annual conference! Beginning in 2022, OCAMPR holds monthly Community of Practice events, is putting infrastructure in place for longevity, has revived and expanded the conference publication, and has more exciting programming in the works.

Q: Why Chicago?

- Chicago is an airport hub and relatively inexpensive to fly direct to from most anywhere in the country, including Alaska.
- There is a great “ground team” of OCAMPR members and supporters to assist in planning in Chicago.
- In the Chicago area, OCAMPR has the opportunity to apply for a grant to offset conference costs. Those savings are passed to conference attendees through lower registration costs and conference scholarships.

Q: Why USML?

- USML has onsite lodging, catering, and conference spaces. Additionally, the grounds are *beautiful*.
- The USML staff is extremely hospitable and accommodating.
- The cost of holding a conference at USML is affordable and costs less than all other venues OCAMPR researched.
- 2023 attendees *loved* the venue and voiced extreme satisfaction on the survey. When we asked for constructive criticism, respondents noted how much they loved the venue and wanted to return, rather than criticizing it.

Q: Wouldn't changing the location actually “build up membership” in new locations from year to year?

- This is a great hypothesis and one that OCAMPR will begin to investigate and track to guide future decision making around the conference location.
- The board is currently considering that local events prior to bringing the conference into an area would actually be a better plan in order to ensure conference attendance. We are in discussions with members willing to do this in other parts of the country.

Q: How long will the conference return to the same location?

- The conference will stay in the same location until we are confident that the next location will have enough OCAMPR members willing to travel there and enough locals to support the event with conference attendees, ground team, and local plenary speakers.

Q: Where should the Conference go after USML?

- OCAMPR will assemble a search team to begin scoping out venues now for the future, as this is a time-consuming process due to our growing numbers. If you are interested in helping, please email ocamprassistant@gmail.com.