HackIllinois 2026 Travel Guide

Welcome!

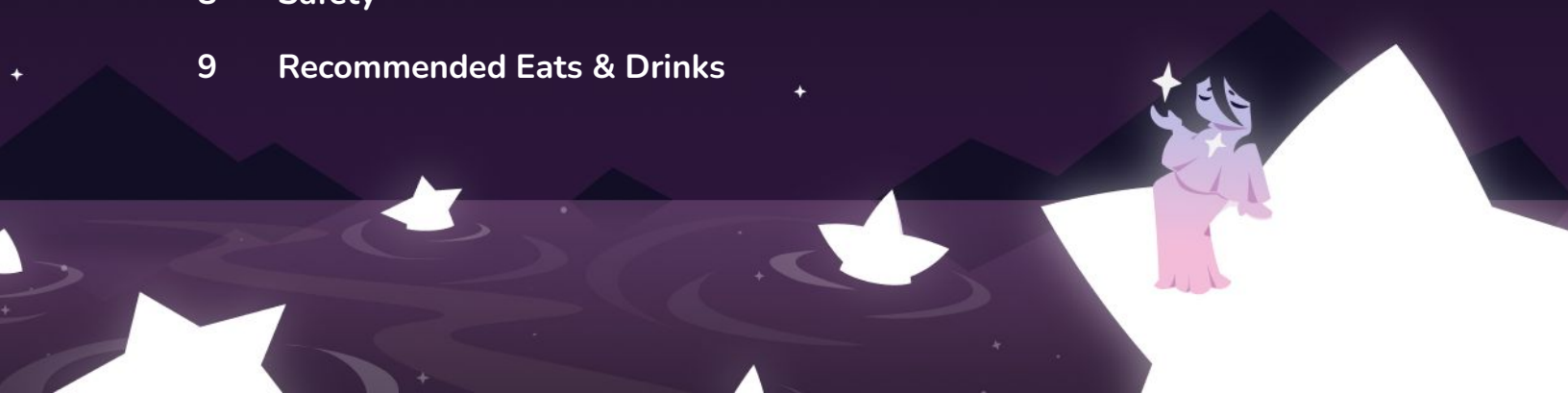Thank you for your interest in joining HackIllinois 2026!

We are thrilled to have you on board this year for HackAstra!

Our event is scheduled for **February 27th to March 1st, 2026.**

We hope you enjoy your experience with us this year!

Table of Contents

Schedule Overview

Friday, Feb 27

- 2:30 – 5:00 PM CST: Check-in
- 3:00 PM CST: Company Expo
- 5:00 PM CST: Opening Ceremony
- 6:00 PM – 1:00 AM CST: Company Events, Workshops, Tournaments

Saturday, Feb 28

- Mentor Office Hours continue throughout the day
- Company Workshops and other events continue throughout the day

Sunday, Mar 1

- 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM CST: Judging
- 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM: Closing Ceremony

Note: A more detailed schedule with exact times and session locations will be shared closer to the event on our website.

Airport Options

Midway Airport (MDW)

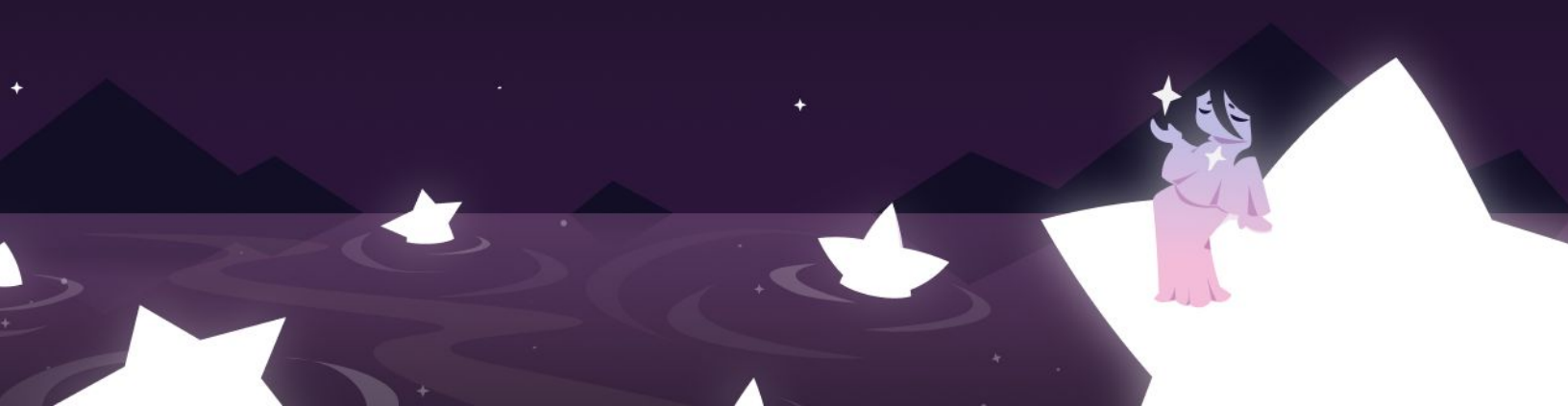🚀 Around 2 hours drive to campus

- **Peoria Charter:** book [here](#)
  - From: Midway Airport
  - To: Armory / ISR / Illinois Terminal
- **Amtrak**
  - From: CHI
  - To: CHM
- **Rental Cars**

O'Hare International Airport (ORD)

🚀 Around 2.5 hours drive to campus

- **Peoria Charter:** book [here](#)
  - From: O'Hare Multi-Modal Facility
  - To: Armory / ISR / Illinois Terminal
- **Amtrak**
  - From: CHI
  - To: CHM
- **Rental Cars**

Airport Options Cont.

Willard Airport (CMI)

🚀 Around 15 - 20 mins drive to campus

Indianapolis International Airport (IND)

🚀 Around 2 hours drive to campus
- **Jefferson Lines:** book **here**
  - From: IND | Indianapolis Union Station (Amtrak/Greyhound)
  - To: CHM | Champaign Intermodal Transportation Center
- **Amtrak**
  - From: IND
  - To: CHM
- **Rental Cars**

Note: UIUC students often travel through ORD. If you're flying into a farther airport, be sure to book ground transportation to Champaign in advance.
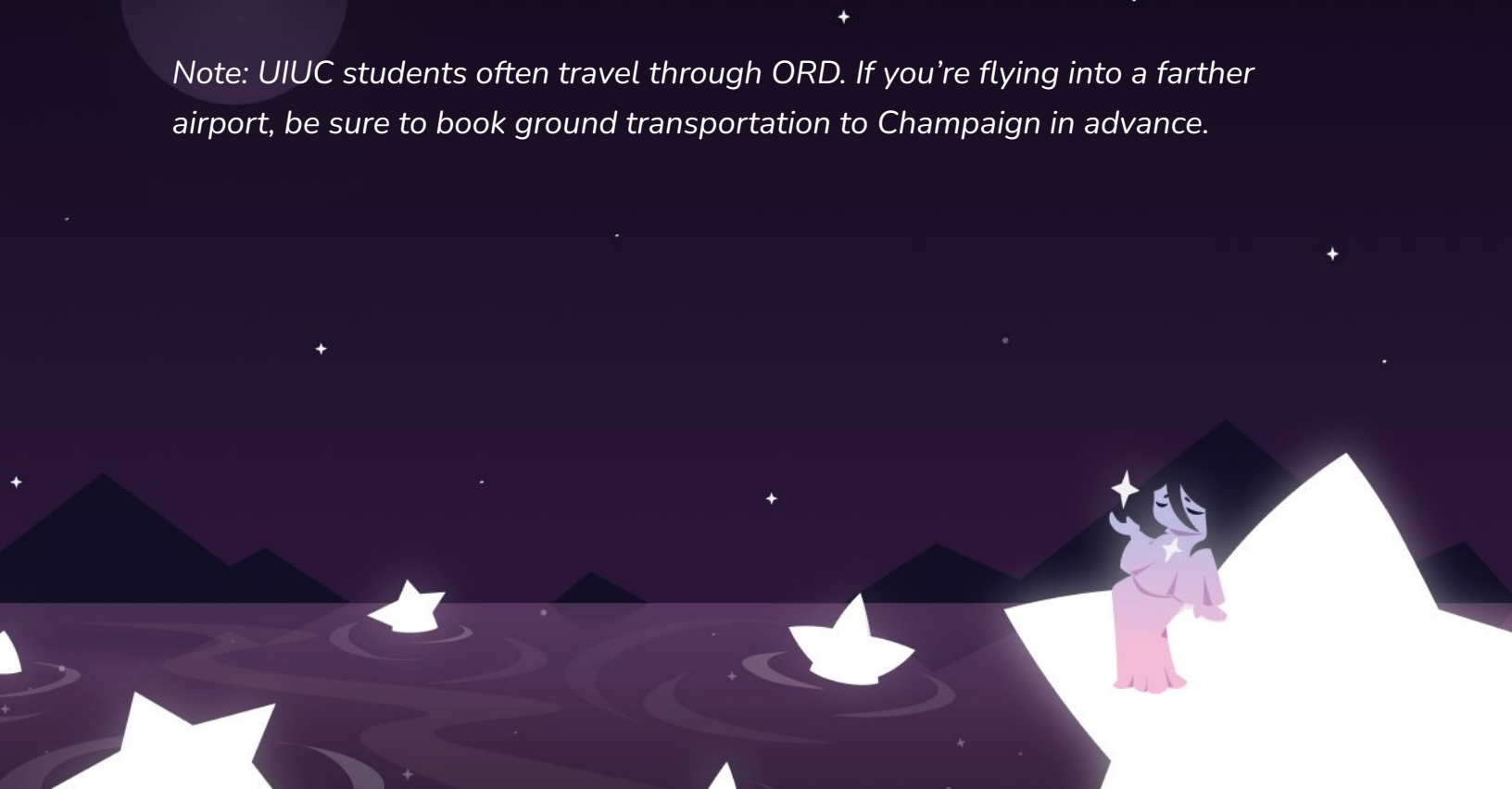
Hotel Options

Close to HackIllinois:

Location Name	Address
Illini Union Hotel	1401 W Green St, Urbana, IL 61801
TownePlace Suites by Marriott	603 S 6th St, Champaign, IL 61820

A bit further:

You can take the bus (free on and around campus), Uber/Lyft from the hotel to the event, or bring a car if that is convenient for you.

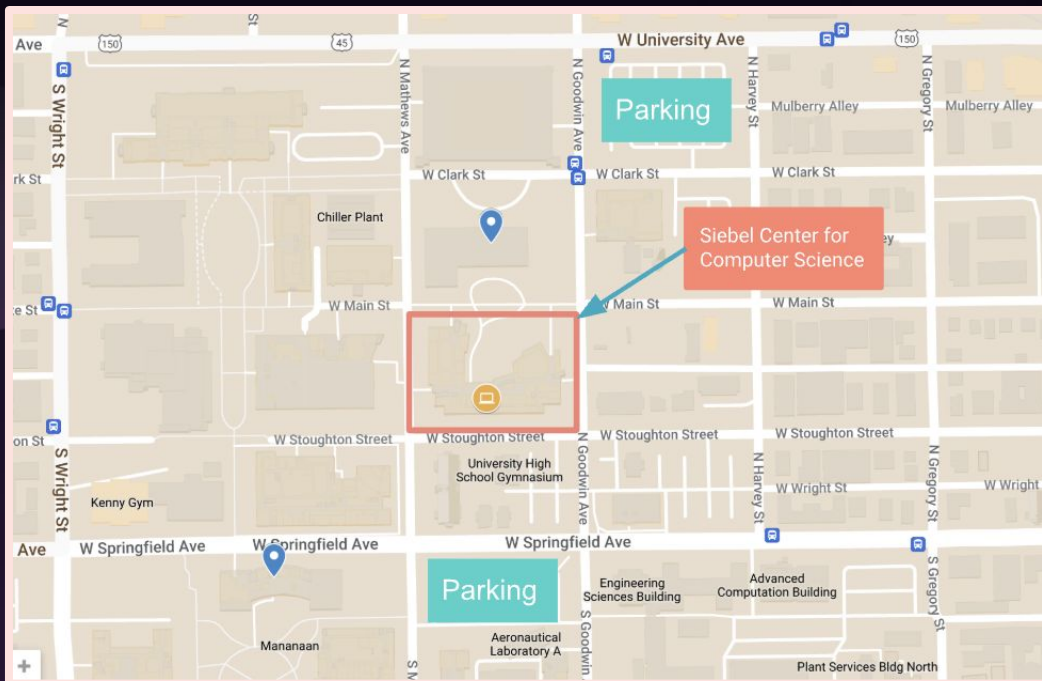| Location Name	Address
I Hotel	1900 S 1st St, Champaign, IL 61820
Hyatt Place	217 N Neil St, Champaign, IL 61820
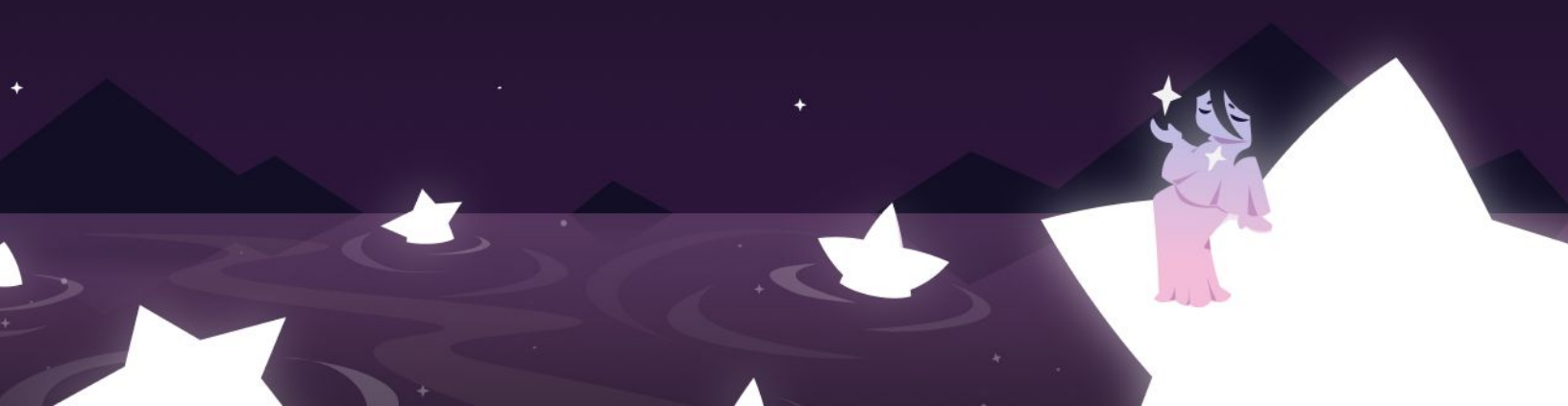
Reimbursement

- Travel and lodging reimbursements are offered on a case-by-case basis based on travel zones.
  - The state reimbursement chart on our website shows maximum potential amounts only. Your actual reimbursement eligibility is outlined in your acceptance email and the portal.
  - Please check these details carefully before booking travel.
- Please review qualification details and reimbursement policies at **hackillinois.org/travel** before making arrangements.
- Attendees are responsible for booking their own travel and lodging based on their preferences. Approved expenses will be reimbursed via direct deposit or another convenient method (Venmo, Zelle, or check).
- Reimbursements are processed **after the event**. We will email instructions on how to submit your receipts through a Google Form. **Please keep clear photos of all receipts.**
- If you do not receive the reimbursement form email within two week after the event, contact us at contact@hackillinois.org.

Parking

For parking, there is visitor parking (free on weekends) available at the locations listed below. Additionally, metered parking is available in various locations around Siebel Center and campus.

| Location Name	Address
National Center for Supercomputing Applications	1201 W University Ave, Urbana, IL 61801
Grainger Engineering Library	104 S Mathews Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

Event Navigation

After parking, enter the Siebel first floor and proceed to the atrium (the large open space located towards the center of the first floor, by the glass windows).

A map of Siebel can be accessed **here**.

Location Name	Address
Department of Computer Science (Siebel Center for Computer Science)	201 N Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801
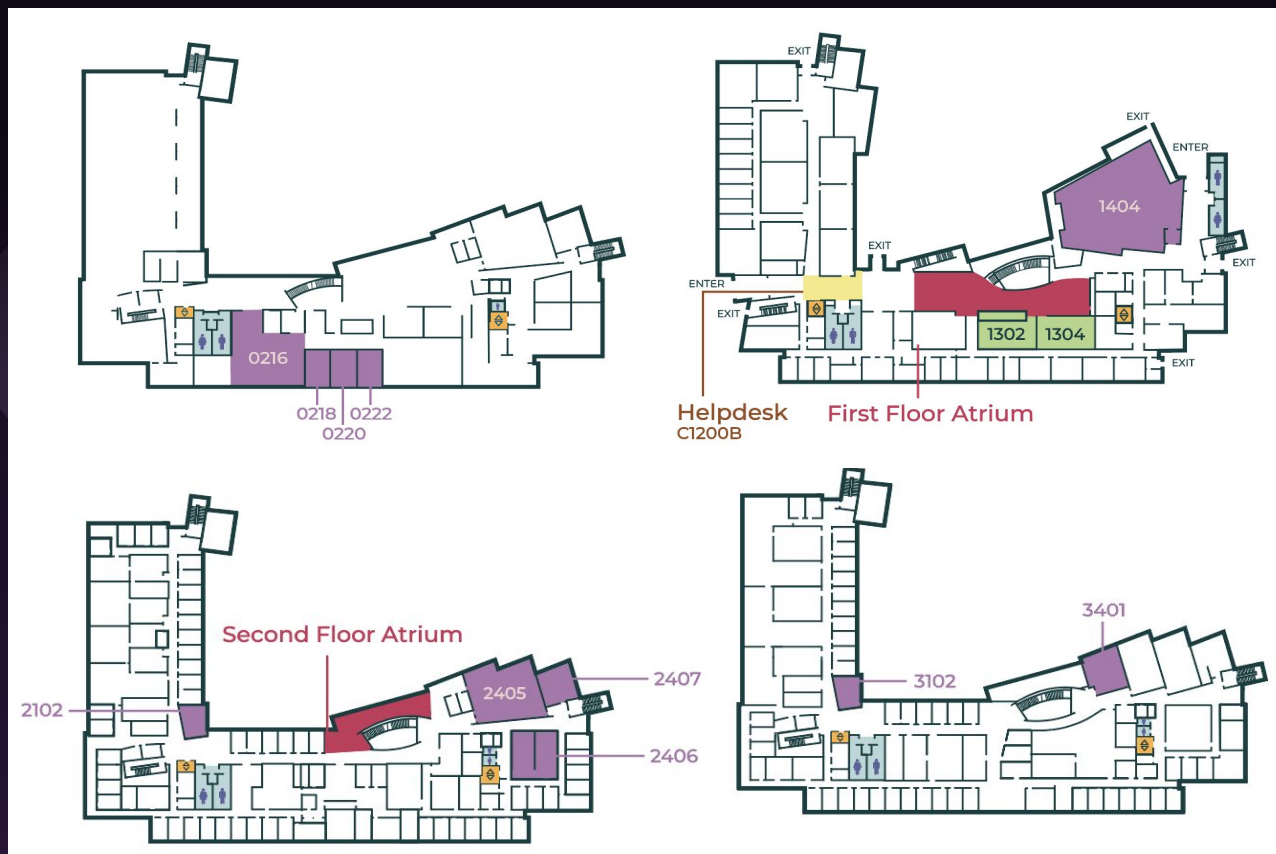
Health & Safety

This year, the university does not require face coverings in classrooms or campus spaces. However, you are welcome to wear a face covering if you feel more comfortable doing so. For everyone's safety, there will also be police presences on campus throughout the event.

Recommended Eats & Drinks

During your time at HackIllinois, there are plenty of great options to grab a bite, enjoy a coffee, or sip on some boba. Below are some of our favorite local spots near campus for mentors, judges, and attendees alike. Note that HackIllinois does provide free catered meals and snacks.

Boba & Coffee

- *Cocomero* – Frozen yogurt, seasonal boba, and coffee
- *Latea Bubble Tea Lounge* – Classic milk teas and fruit teas
- *Brew Lab / Bake Lab* – Specialty coffee and espresso drinks

Food

- *Merry Ann's Diner* – Classic American breakfast and diner fare
- *Cracked: The Egg Came First* – Breakfast and brunch favorites
- *Shawarma Joint* – Middle Eastern wraps and plates
- *The Bread Company* – Cozy bistro and bakery
- *Sakanaya* – Sushi and Japanese cuisine
- *Northern Cuisine* – Highly rated Chinese cuisine
- *Seven Saints* – Popular bar & grill with sliders
- *Ko Fusion* – Asian fusion bowls, ramen, and sushi
- *Bangkok Thai* – Thai classics, curries, and noodle dishes
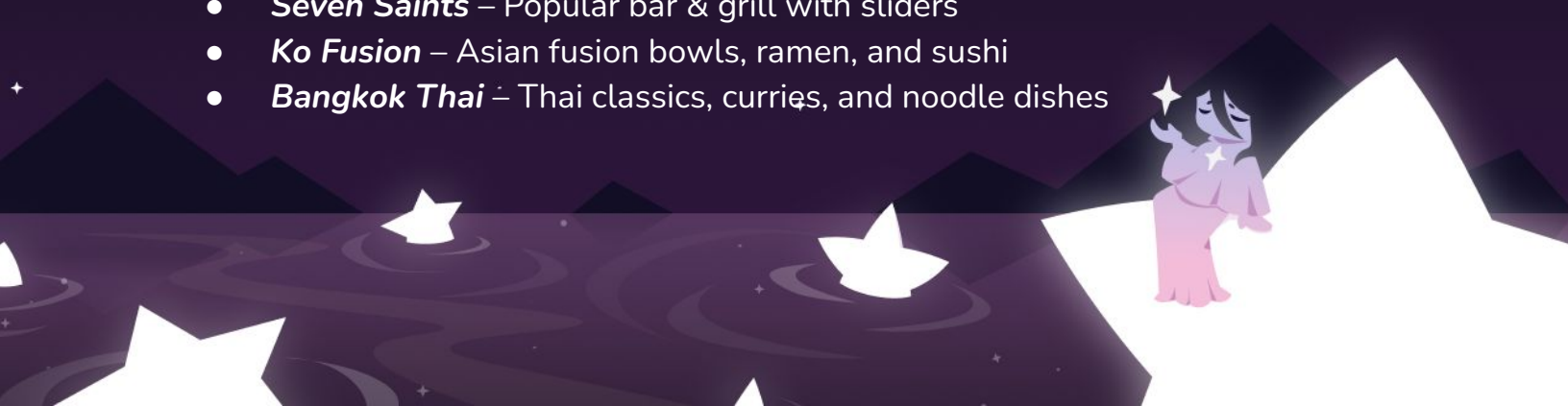
Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read through this guide. We are really excited to have you at the event! For more details and the official event schedule, please refer to the HackIllinois website **here**. This will be our primary form of communication during the event.

If you have any questions about the information provided in this guide, please email **contact@hackillinois.org**.

Travel safe, and get ready for an unforgettable weekend at HackIllinois!