Chicago Map Society

The Chicago Map Society is the oldest map society in North America, and has held monthly meetings at the Newberry Library since 1976. We meet the third Thursday of every month during the academic year (September through June). Meetings start at 5:30 PM with a social half-hour, followed by an hour presentation on a cartographic subject of interest to our membership. A current schedule of presentations (as well as descriptions of past lectures) is posted on our website at www.chicagomapsociety.org.


The only requirement for membership in the Chicago Map Society is an interest in cartography. Our monthly presentations range from historical topics to explanations of the use of cutting-edge technology in mapping. For instance, past presentations have included “Ptolemy’s Geography and Renaissance Mapmakers” and a talk on how the use of digital methods has enabled mapping on a whole new scale. Our speakers typically include academics, working professionals, and members of the society.

Membership benefits include a subscription to Mapline, a newsletter published by the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography at the Newberry Library. Members receive monthly meeting notices, and a chance to share maps from their own collections at our annual holiday party. In addition, the Society occasionally sponsors field trips to view local private and institutional collections. We have also published several books that feature cartography in the Chicago area and often provide speakers for area cartographic events.

Join Us

To join the Chicago Map Society, please complete this form and mail it to the address below together with a check or money order payable to the “Chicago Map Society.” Please be sure to provide an email address, as we are currently moving toward sending all meeting notifications and dues announcements by email.

Chicago Map Society Treasurer
The Newberry
60 W Walton St
Chicago, IL 60610

Member’s Name: ________________________________________________
Mailing Address: ________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________________________
State: _______ Zip Code: ________________________________
Email Address: ________________________________________________
Phone Number: ________________________________________________

Membership Categories
☐ General: $35 Annually
☐ Contributing: $50 Annually
☐ Sustaining: $100 Annually
☐ Household: $65 Annually
☐ Student: $10 Annually
☐ Lifetime: $1500