



ADSC
Summer
MEETING
CHICAGO
2026

Preview

Just the other day, you were thinking... *“What I really need is a fun summer trip with a bunch of old friends!”* We think we’ve gathered all the right ingredients for you to create the perfect getaway.

✓ **July in Chicago? Check.** (So much to do and such lovely weather).

✓ **Old ADSC friends? Check.** (Our Hall of Fame ceremony will bring in LOTS of blasts from the past).

✓ **New ADSC friends and their families? Check.** (We have such a fun group of people!)

✓ **A stunning hotel right on Michigan Avenue? Check.** (The Ritz-Carlton is FABULOUS).

✓ **Cruising down the Chicago River while drillers tell tales of epic projects? Double check.** (Have you ever met Mike Wysocky? Impossible not to have fun around him.)

This meeting program is full to the brim with fun, interspersed with great opportunities for networking and moving the deep foundations industry forward, and punctuated with an exclamation point of education at the end. Join us. Reconnect with friends. Bring your family. You’ll create lasting memories and progress that carries on for years.

July 19 – July 22, 2026 • The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago

Schedule at-a-Glance

*Indicates Concurrent sessions

SATURDAY, JULY 18

4:00 PM

Closed Board of Directors Meeting

7:30-10:30 PM

Boat Cruise with fireworks
(Separate Registration)

SUNDAY, JULY 19

4:00 PM

*Associates Committee Meeting

4:00 PM

*Governance Committee Meeting

5:30 PM

Opening Reception

MONDAY, JULY 20

7:00 AM

Breakfast

8:00 AM

Safety Working Group

9:00 AM

WiC Roundtable

10:00 AM

Break

10:30 AM

*Anchored Earth
Retention Committee

MONDAY, JULY 20 (CONTINUED)

10:30 AM

*Membership Committee Meeting

11:30 AM

Micropile Committee Meeting

12:30 PM

Safety Awards Lunch

1:30 PM

Owners Roundtable

2:30 PM

Drilled Shaft Committee Meeting

3:30 PM

Break

4:00 PM

General Membership Meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 21

7:00 AM-8:30 AM

Breakfast

9:00 AM

Golf Tournament

11:00 AM

Family Activities

6:00 PM

Reception and Silent Auction

7:00 PM

Dinner, Live Auction, and
Hall of Fame Ceremony

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

8:00 AM

Breakfast

8:00 AM

Education Task Force Meeting

9:00 AM

Education Tracks #1 and #2 Begin

***Education Track #1:**

Improvising at the
University of Iowa

***Education Track #2:**

Difficult Access on
a Narrow Jetty

10:00 AM

***Education Track #1:**

Assembling the Arsenal –
A Contractor's Weapons in
Defending Drilled Shafts

***Education Track #2:**

Trust as a Tool for
Safety on Transmission
Foundation Jobsites

11:00 AM

***Education Track #1:**

Concrete Slam Regional Trends

***Education Track #2:**

Logistics Issues for Transmission
Structure Foundations

Networking & Fun

OPENING RECEPTION

Chicago in July? Yes. An outside deck overlooking Michigan Avenue? Yes, please. Wandering between the outside deck and the elegant inside bar while chatting with your best ADSC friends? Sign. Me. Up. We'll kick off the official program with a classic evening in a beautiful Chicago setting. Cocktails, old friends, appetizers, and stories about drilling. It doesn't get better than this.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION ROUNDTABLE

Asset Protection by Rick Kalson, Cozen O'Connor

Rick Kalson will give a presentation on the protection of business and personal assets, followed by a group discussion. This information is valuable for both women and men in the industry.

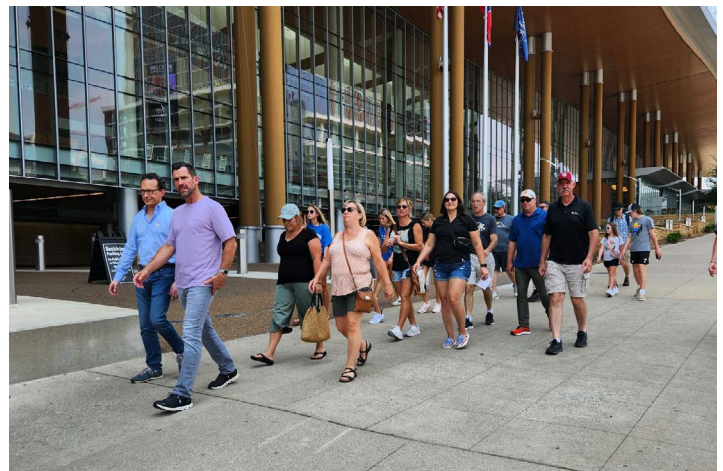
OWNERS' ROUNDTABLE

Business good? Business bad? Can't find employees? Struggling with a set of specs that are crippling your ability to make money. The Owners' Roundtable is the place to bring your questions, your grievances, and your requests for action. Come prepared to speak up.

CHICAGO FOUNDATIONS BOAT CRUISE

Imagine this – it's a gorgeous summer evening in downtown Chicago, and you and a boatload of your friends are cruising the Chicago River, having cocktails and listening to tall(ish) tales about how many of the foundations for Chicago's biggest buildings were built. There will be food, there will be friendship, and there will probably be a bunch of stories involving drilling, negotiating, and trying not to die of frostbite. At the end of the cruise, boat passengers will have a prime spot for viewing fireworks.

Cruise departure is a short 15-minute walk from the Ritz-Carlton. This event requires a separate registration.





GOLF TOURNAMENT

This is Chicago in the summer, so you could play golf in an alley, and it would be lovely. But no alleys here. Instead, you'll spend the day at Cog Hill, one of America's Top 100 public golf courses. Hang out with your industry buddies, your family, even golfers you've never met on this gorgeous track, and forget about project delays and lost augers.

FAMILY TIME ON LAKE MICHIGAN

The golfers will be jealous when they get back and hear all the stories from the attendees who choose to spend the day on Lake Michigan, indulging in a variety of watersports.

SHOPPING

Don't golf? Hate the water? We will personally walk you out of the hotel and over the half-block to Michigan Avenue, where we'll direct you to some of the best shopping in the country. Need a lunch recommendation? We have lots. Curious about where to find the best shoe selections? We know these things, and we'll share our highly specialized knowledge. Just ask.

HALL OF FAME RECEPTION & DINNER

This night will be legendary in ADSC history for many years to come. Cocktails will be held in a beautiful area in the Ritz Carlton with floor-to-ceiling city views. A silent auction will be held to benefit the Industry Advancement Fund, so bring your checkbooks (or your Venmo account)! Dinner will be held in the spectacular Ritz Carlton Ballroom, and the festivities will begin with a live auction to benefit the IAF. Once we have raised piles of cash, the evening will move into our Hall of Fame celebration, where we will honor some of the most impressive names in our industry:

- ▶ Bruce Long, Long Foundation Drilling, Hall of Fame
- ▶ Tom Witherspoon, S&W Foundations, Contractor Emeritus
- ▶ Bernie Hertlein, GEI, Honorary Technical Affiliate (posthumous)
- ▶ Horst Aschenbroich, Con-Tech Systems, Honorary Associate (posthumous)



Education Program

TRACK #1 – GENERAL INTEREST

Wednesday, July 22 at 9:00 AM

“Improving at the University of Iowa” • Gene Sheedy, P.E., Midwest Drilled Foundations and Engineering

This project was notable for the cooperation between the drilling contractor and the construction manager to change the schedule so that existing structures could be used as a working platform for a major portion of the job. Additional collaboration prevented conflicts with earthwork contractors working in the same area when drilling took place.

Wednesday, July 22 at 10:00 AM

“Assembling the Arsenal – A Contractor’s Weapons in Defending Drilled Shafts” • George Piczalko, GRL/PDI, Scott Webster, GRL/PDI, and Scott Jacobs, Keller

In recent years, nondestructive testing has become a burden in some situations instead of a benefit. However, there are ways contractors can go on the offensive – from the start of the job – to prevent NDT results from being a single-point reference for acceptance and payment for shafts. From legal strategies to methods of insisting on ACTUAL inspections, this session will serve as the first in a series of workshops on how to assemble an arsenal of defensive weapons while proactively insisting on practical and quality execution from the Owner’s side.

Wednesday, July 22 at 11:00 AM

“Concrete, Part 2” • Multiple Presenters

Following on the heels of ADSC’s Concrete Slam in April 2026, this session will present highlights of the most pertinent issues brought to light during the workshop, including results of polling on regional problems and variations. Also discussed will be plans for initiatives and potential research projects stemming from the Slam.

TRACK #2 – TRANSMISSION STRUCTURE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION

Wednesday, July 22 at 9:00 AM

“Difficult Access on a Narrow Jetty” • Nick Ibach, Tri-State Drilling

Those in the transmission structure business know that access and logistics often comprise the most critical parts of the job, as schedule constraints only allow short windows to get in and get out. This presentation will highlight just such a project in which the “How do we get there?” was much more complicated than the “How do we drill this?”

Wednesday, July 22 at 10:00 AM

“Trust as a Tool for Safety on Transmission Foundation Jobsites” • Zach Kane, Aldridge Group

Gravity doesn’t work differently on transmission structure projects, but the temporary nature of jobsite infrastructure often means that a different approach to safety is needed. Zach Kane will speak about trust as a tool and how to establish a safety mentality even when the jobsite can change on a daily basis.

Wednesday, July 22 at 11:00 AM

“Concrete Issues for Transmission Structure Foundations” • Multiple Presenters

Getting just the right concrete is hard enough when you have months to perfect a mix design, and the concrete is coming from the same plant. The problem gets a lot harder when client requirements are strict, but the material must be batched from multiple plants. Add in a tough combination of slow engineering review and fast project schedules, and you have a recipe for a headache. A panel of industry veterans will discuss common problems and ways to address them.

Travel and Transportation



By air, Chicago is an easy flight from most parts of the U.S. and Canada. O'Hare and Midway Airports are 30 minutes from the Ritz-Carlton by car and an hour by train.

AIRPORTS

Chicago O'Hare International Airport

10000 W O'Hare Ave
Chicago, IL 60666

30 minute drive from the airport to the hotel

Chicago Midway International Airport

5700 S Cicero Ave
Chicago, IL 60638

30 minute drive from the airport to the hotel

AMTRAK

Chicago Union Station

225 S Canal St
Chicago, IL 60606

16 minutes from the hotel by car

35 minutes from the hotel by CTA (Chicago Transit Authority)

Ground transportation in Chicago includes an extensive, interconnected network of CTA "L" trains and buses, Metra commuter rail, taxis, and rideshare services like Uber and Lyft.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

CTA Blue Line

To see the most up-to-date schedule and timetable, visit the CTA website at <https://www.transitchicago.com/blueline/#timetable>

Leaving from O'Hare Airport

There are Taxi Stands at the lower-level curb front (outside of Baggage Claim) at each terminal. Taxi service is available to Chicago and suburban destinations.

Fares are based on traffic conditions, but an average fare from O'Hare to downtown Chicago is \$50

For wheelchair accessible vehicles, please call 1-888-928-2227

Flat taxi shared ride service is available to those who wish to share a ride and pay a flat rate to certain destinations if multiple parties are available for the trip. Shared ride fares from O'Hare include:

- ▶ **Downtown**
(\$24 per person)
- ▶ **McCormick Place**
(\$24 per person)
- ▶ **Midway International Airport** (\$37 per person)
- ▶ **Metra**
Location: On the northeast side of O'Hare at Zemke and Mannheim Roads.
- ▶ **Metra Rail Tracker:**
<https://metratracker.com/map>

PICKING UP RENTAL CARS FROM O'HARE

Rental car companies are located in the Multi-Modal Facility (MMF). To get to the MMF from the terminals or reverse, passengers should take the Airport Transit System (ATS). The MMF's address is: 10255 W. Zemke Blvd., Chicago, IL 60666.

Accommodations

THE RITZ-CARLTON, CHICAGO

The world-class luxury of the Ritz-Carlton Chicago is known far and wide. This gorgeous property hosts celebrities, including NBA players and musicians, who are drawn to its outstanding amenities and floor-to-ceiling views of Lake Michigan and downtown Chicago. Steps from Michigan Avenue, guests are just moments away from the best dining and shopping in Chicago.

The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago
160 East Pearson Street
Chicago, IL 60611

+1 312-266-1000

On-Site Parking:
Hourly: \$34.00; Daily: \$85.00

Off-Site Parking: Water Tower
Chicago Self-Parking, 0.1 Miles

Valet: Daily: \$85.00

Self-parking is available in the attached garage. Guests can move vehicles with an hourly rate applied for each in/out access.

Scan the
QR Code
for more
information
about the
Ritz-Carlton



DINING AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, CHICAGO

Torali Italian - Steak is modern in approach and Italian in spirit, featuring a contemporary, chef-driven menu. The highlights at our Italian restaurant in Chicago include prime steak, handmade pastas, and award-winning desserts.

Mon & Sun: 7:00 AM-2:00 PM

Tue-Sat: 7:00 AM-2:00 PM,
5:00 PM-10:00 PM

Enjoy city and lake views from the 12th floor in **Rooftop at Torali**. Our bar and rooftop restaurant in Chicago offers a chic outdoor lounge setting for seasonal cocktails and sweet and savory bites.

Mon-Thu: 3:00 PM-11:00 PM

Fri-Sun: 11:00 AM-11:00 PM

The elegant setting of **Torali Bar** in Chicago features craft cocktails and spirit-free cocktails, along with an extensive spirit and wine list to complement the dining experience.

Mon-Wed: 3:00 PM-11:00 PM

Thu-Sun: 11:00 AM-11:00 PM

Fri-Sat: 11:00 AM-12:00 AM

The Café is a greenhouse-inspired rooftop bar in Chicago that is perfect for enjoying specialty coffees, fresh juices, sandwiches, pastries, and decadent desserts served daily.

Every day: 6:00 AM-1:00 PM

DINING RECOMMENDATIONS

Lou Malnati's – A Chicago classic known for its buttery crust and legendary deep-dish pizza loaded with rich tomato sauce and gooey mozzarella.

Pequod's – A local favorite serving deep-dish pizza with a signature caramelized crust that adds a crispy, cheesy edge to every slice.

Au Cheval – Home to one of the most talked-about burgers in America, stacked high with thick-cut bacon, a perfectly runny egg, and melty cheese.

Bavette's Bar & Boeuf – A moody, Parisian-style steakhouse offering prime cuts, classic cocktails, and an intimate, old-school vibe.

Girl & the Goat – A lively, chef-driven hotspot featuring bold, globally inspired small plates designed for sharing.

Things to Do WITH THE FAMILY

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE RITZ

Step into one of the nation's leading contemporary art museums, the **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago**, where thought-provoking exhibitions, sculpture, photography, and multimedia installations showcase today's most exciting artists. (1-minute walk)

Experience the impressive panoramic views of the Chicago skyline and Lake Michigan from the **360 CHICAGO Observation Deck** – 1,030 feet above the famed Magnificent Mile. Don't miss the thrilling TILT experience! (5-minute walk)

The **Chicago Architecture Center** offers guided, walking tours throughout the city as well as 90-minute river cruises aboard Chicago's First Lady, featuring expert narration and unforgettable views of Chicago's iconic skyline from the Chicago River. (20-minute walk)

LET'S TAKE THE CAR

Snap a photo with "**The Bean!**" Nicknamed for its sleek kidney shape, this Anish Kapoor sculpture is the centerpiece of AT&T Plaza in **Millennium Park**. (10-minute drive)

Tour the historic 1920s **Chicago Theatre** movie palace and performance venue that has hosted performances by Bob Marley, Madonna, Diana Ross, and many more! (10-minute drive)

Take a stroll along Chicago's iconic lakefront, the **Navy Pier!** While you're there, explore **Chicago Children's Museum**, a hands-on, play-based museum where kids learn by doing. Popular attractions include the Tinkering Lab and WaterWays, all designed to spark creativity and exploration. (10-minute drive)

Visit the **Lincoln Park Zoo**, one of the nation's oldest (and free) zoos, and meet friendly farm animals in a charming red-barn setting. A perfect outing for the kids! (10-minute drive)

Step behind the scenes of baseball history with a guided tour of the iconic ballpark, **Wrigley Field**, home to the beloved Cubs since 1914. (15-minute drive)

Take in sweeping city views from the **Skydeck** at one of the tallest buildings in the Western Hemisphere, **Willis Tower**. Do you dare to stand on The Ledge's glass floor? (15-minute drive)

Explore two of Chicago's premier museums: marvel at aquatic life from around the world at the **Shedd Aquarium**, and then encounter Sue the T. Rex and extraordinary natural history exhibits at the **Field Museum**. (20-minute drive) ▲

