

Application to the 2026 - 2027 Judgeship of the University of Chicago Scavenger Hunt

Instructions for Submission

The application consists of two parts: a sample list and your answers to a series of questions. Each should be submitted as a Word document in a single email, sent to **judgeapps2027@gmail.com** by **Sunday, May 17 at 11:57pm** Central Time. In your sample list, please exclude **any and all** obvious identifying information. In the body of your email, please provide your full name (including middle), your pronouns if comfortable, year in the University, email address, phone number, and physical address.

Part 1: Sample List

Please submit an anonymous list of twenty to thirty sample items. While composing your list, please maintain the utmost secrecy. If you are chosen for the Judgeship, these sample items may become part of the next List. Please keep in mind that, while we think our own items are excellent, your list will be judged solely on its own merits; items that are repetitions of past Lists count as the bad kind of sycophancy, since we don't get to see your Scav mind at work. Please note that it is not necessary to assign point values for your items, unless you feel that a pointing scheme is critical for our understanding of your intent.

Part 2: Background Information

1. How would you like to see Scav Hunt grow and change over the next few years, if at all?
2. Please tell us about your Scav Hunt experience, if any, in one hundred words or fewer.
3. Please answer three of the following:
 - a. How would you have killed John Lennon?
 - b. Describe your best nightmare.
 - c. Top five places to get slimed?
 - d. You approach a set of train tracks, where you find three people handcuffed to the tracks. They have been tasked with eating eight magical sandwiches each, but they have no way of bringing the magical sandwiches to their mouths on account of their arms being handcuffed to the tracks. Before them is a potential fork in the road, where one person is handcuffed. This person has been tasked with eating two magical sandwiches. In your backpack you have eleven magical sandwiches (you were saving one for later) that each have a 50% chance of killing you upon eating one. Also in your backpack is a metal detector. In the surrounding area, there is a buried key that will unlock two handcuffs before it breaks. You estimate that it will take twenty seconds to dig up the key once you find it, and at least a minute to eat each magical sandwich. A bit further out, there is another buried object—a ten million dollar coin. Barreling down the tracks is a train, and the conductor of that train suffers from near-sightedness. The train will arrive soon and has a 50% chance of stopping on its own. In front of you is a lever. Pulling the lever has a 50% chance of stopping the train but increases the odds that each magical sandwich kills you to 70%. What do you do?

e. Pick a room and tell us why.



4. What was your favorite item from the Scav List in 2025 or 2026? What is an item you feel didn't belong on the List? Why?
5. Please give brief critiques (two sentences or fewer) of the following items. If you think an item is perfect, explain why.
 - a. Your team's "cranberry bog" must be protected by "wolf spiders."
 - b. Does no one else suck the barbecue sauce out of the little fast food barbecue sauce containers? Really? Well, bring your best sucker to the suck-a-thon to suck as much sauce out of those pesky packets as possible.
 - c. Ricin Krispie Treat.
 - d. You got that dog in you? It wants WALKIES!!!!!! Well, you heard it. Better take it for a walk, okay? Good boy. [12 points per Scavvie on a leash at Olympics]
 - e. A slot machine, roulette wheel, or Pachinko machine that demonstratively proves that 95% of gamblers quit right before they were about to hit it big.
 - f. Your team's designated frugivore, present at every event and denoted by wearing all yellow, who can and will eat fifteen bananas on command with no hesitation.
6. From the items listed in Question 5, select three and improve them. Describe why your way is better.

Thank you, and good luck!

P.S. - [Tell us your score.](#)