

Headquarters Beercade offers nerdy, fun atmosphere

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IT MANAGER

Headquarters Beercade is a great place for anyone who likes arcade games, pinball, or alcohol. Although they opened more recently than other popular attractions—in 2012—Headquarters is well known in the Chicago nerd community. Anyone looking for authentic controllers on their games, like Paper Boy's bike wheel, can come here and play whatever games they like for free. As long as you're 21 or older, you can go there 365 days a year to have fun and socialize with other people who have similar interests. The major downside to

this place is how loud the music is, you generally have to yell to hear anyone.

This past weekend, I went there with a group of friends to get off campus and socialize. I played Dig Dug, my favorite arcade game, Ms. Pac Man, an X-Men game, then Michael Jackson's Moonwalker, an excellent game where you and three other people can play as the King of Pop, killing robots and using monkey keys to gain suits of armor. Just like real life! Going to Level 2 I played Avengers pinball, a game where you have to make burgers while avoid peppers and eggs, and X-Men vs Street Fighter. It was an excellent time, which flew by from 9:30 p.m. very quickly to 2 a.m. where by

we had been kicked out of the closing Level 2 and ended up leaving.

On Level 1 there is a large open area in front of the DJ where you can dance, and we got to witness several crowds dancing as the night progressed, I even joined a couple of times. Because I went on a Friday night, it was absolutely packed, which meant we had to wait a bit for games to become available. If possible, I would recommend going on a lower traffic day, it is bound to have quieter music and more open games. One final note, there is no coat check at Headquarters, and it might be hot if there are many people, so dress appropriately.

I definitely give this place a 9/10, but

I do have to subtract at least one point for the music. Although it was mostly good music, I feel that allowing patrons to more easily talk to one another could better enhance the purpose of the Beercade. After all, it's already difficult enough to get us to leave our comfortable dorm rooms and go to crowded places, just to play games we might already have emulated on our computers. I think everyone should give it a try, after all, it's free!

Headquarters has two locations:
213 W Institute, Chicago, IL 60610 (Closer to campus, larger) and 2833 N Sheffield Ave, Chicago, IL 60657 (Better atmosphere).



Photos courtesy of hqbeercade.com

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