



“Challenge Coins”, and The Belle Isle Casino

The Belle Isle *Casino* has never been a gambling establishment. The word comes from the Italian "casa", meaning house or public room, and that is exactly what this building has always been.

The first “casino” on Belle Isle was a wooden Victorian structure built in June 1887, one of the earliest buildings constructed after the island became a park. The current building replaced it in May 1908.



For generations, the casino was **Detroit's Grand Gathering Place** and hosted weddings, receptions, and public gatherings. It closed in 2023 for comprehensive restoration. The Belle Isle Casino reopened **on March 13, 2026. That date is 313 Day** in Detroit, named for the city's area code, and it was a fitting moment to return one of Belle Isle's most storied buildings to the community.

What is a Challenge Coin?

A *challenge coin* is a small metal medallion carried or displayed as a symbol of shared experience, earned respect, or notable accomplishment. Traditionally, coins are presented by leaders, peers, or organizations to recognize meaningful contributions, successful missions, completion of specialized training, acts of leadership, or special achievements.



Challenge coins originated in military culture, with modern traditions tracing back to World War I. Over time, the tradition spread into law enforcement, fire services, and eventually healthcare; particularly emergency medicine, where the specialty's strong ties to teamwork, high-stakes operations, and public service closely mirror military and first responder culture. Today, challenge coins are increasingly used to commemorate training or honor exceptional performance.

In emergency medicine and EMS, receiving a challenge coin often represents more than a souvenir; it reflects inclusion in a close professional community built around resilience, service, education, and performance under pressure.

Sources:

1. The Perna Team <https://www.thepernateam.com/blog/belle-isle-park-detroit/>, accessed 2026
2. Historic Detroit.org <https://historicdetroit.org/buildings/belle-isle-casino-old>, accessed 2026



References to review en route to this station

7. Pandurangadu A, et al. *Ultrasound-guided intravenous catheter survival impacted by amount of catheter residing in the vein*. Emergency Medicine Journal, 2018.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30021833/>
8. WikiEM, Ultrasound-assisted Peripheral Line Placement. Accessed 2026.
https://wikem.org/wiki/Ultrasound-assisted_peripheral_line_placement
9. Bahl, A et al. *Ultralong Versus Standard Long Peripheral Intravenous Catheters: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Ultrasonographically Guided Catheter Survival*. Ann Emerg Med, 2020.
10. Ultrasound Guided Vascular Access: Clinical Reference. *The Clinical Database Blog*. Accessed online 2026. <https://blog.intracav.ai/vascular-access/guides/ultrasound-guided-vascular-access/>
11. Intravenous Access – Peripheral. *Clinical Practice Guidelines*. Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne. Accessed 2026
https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/intravenous_access_peripheral/

Station 10: Vascular Cannulation Station



Even though the Historic Belle Isle Casino was never used for gambling, today is your chance to test your luck (and skill) against your choice of faculty when it comes to placing an Ultrasound Guided Peripheral IV. May the odds be ever in your favor.

1 Point Pick a champion from your team to go up against a faculty member in a head-to-head race to place the fastest Ultrasound Guided Peripheral IV catheter.

[Redacted answer area]

2 Points *Guessed it perfectly*

1 Point *Guessed it +/- one decile (if the answer was 50%, a guess of 40 or 60)*

0 Points *Guess off by 2 deciles or more (if the answer was 50%, a guess of 30 or 70)*

1 Point According to Pandurangadu et al. (*Emergency Medicine Journal 2018*), what **percent** of the catheter must reside in the vein in order to still be a successful IV at 72 hours?

1 Point According to Bahl et al (*Annals of Emergency Medicine 2020*), what **length** of catheter inside the vein is associated with optimum outcomes?

1 Point We didn't come up with the 3:1:3 rule, WikiEM did. But this is Detroit so lets talk about it. What is the 3:1:3 rule for prescanning and picking the best target vein?

1 Point [Redacted answer area]

Station 10: Vascular Cannulation Station



- 1 Point Why should one *avoid* using the Brachial vein for peripheral IV access?
- 1 Point Lower extremity USGPV's are generally avoided due to higher rates of infection and thrombosis and should only be considered as a last resort. However, if you must, the great saphenous vein at the ankle is recommended in pediatric literature in particular as a reliable option⁵. For one point, identify this vein on a teammate and assess whether it fits the 3:1:3 rule in less than 60 seconds

- 1 Point REMATCH! Pick a champion from your team to go up against a faculty member in a head-to-head race to place the best Ultrasound Guided Peripheral IV catheter.

If you beat the faculty, you get not only a point for your team, but your champion gets the honor of a specially minted SonoWAR Challenge Coin to recognize your skill. (Additional teammate Champions are welcome to challenge faculty after your team is done)