



The Iwamoto North America Foundation for Go

East Coast Go Center: Request for Proposals

The Iwamoto North American Foundation for Go (INAF) seeks to promote Go in the United States through subsidizing the creation of a Go center on the East Coast. The INAF seeks proposals from interested parties for the establishment of a center that would help promote Go in the center's local area, serve as a resource for East Coast go activities, and contribute to a more vibrant Go community nationally.

Funding

The INAF is prepared to make a multi-year commitment of a subsidy of approximately \$50,000 per year to support the establishment of the center. Additional start-up funds may be made available. The INAF will also consider arrangements in which the Center receives fees for administering other INAF projects, such as travel by visiting professional players. The INAF expects the Center to have a plan for reduced reliance on the INAF subsidy following its establishment.

Proposal Elements

A successful proposal will include at least the following elements:

1. A clear description of the proposed Center.

Where would it be located? How accessible is the location to local players and visitors? When would it be open? How would it be staffed?

2. A narrative explaining how the Center would promote Go at the local, regional, and national levels.

What would be the routine activities sponsored by the Center? What levels of participation in these activities are anticipated? What outreach would be done to make the general public more aware of Go? How would the Center increase participation in Go by special groups, such as youth and members of expatriate communities? What special events would the Center facilitate? How would the Center contribute to the promotion of Go in the eastern United States? What would the Center do to maximize the benefits to the Go community of visits by professional and strong amateur player from Japan, Korea, and China?

3. Demonstrated support for the proposal from AGA chapters and other organizations.

Do all the nearby AGA chapters support the proposal? Are chapter members enthusiastic about supporting the proposed activities of the Center? Will they be willing to volunteer to help the Center achieve its goals? Will they be willing to join the Center if it operates on a subscription basis? What efforts will be made to involve all nearby AGA chapters, other Go organizations, and groups interested in promoting awareness of Asian cultures?

4. A plan for the establishment of non-profit status.

What steps will be taken to establish a non-profit entity for receiving and disbursing funds?

5. A proposed board of directors.

Which individuals are willing to take responsibility for prudently using INAF funds and working to make the Center a success for the Go community?

6. A budget outlining the costs and revenues anticipated during the first three to five years of Center operations.

How will funds be used? Is any amount budgeted for a facility realistic? Is any amount budgeted for staff realistic?

7. A plan for gradually reducing the Center's reliance on the INAF subsidy after the end of the initial award.

What revenues would be generated to offset costs once the Center is fully operational?

8. A discussion of any creative ideas to increase the chance of success of the Center.

Timeline

Proposals should be submitted in PDF format to Dave Weimer (weimer@lafollette.wisc.edu) by December 1, 2015. The INAF anticipates selecting a proposal in January 2016 with funding to begin in mid-2016. In the event that the INAF does not receive what it believes to be an acceptable proposal, it reserves the right not to make an award.

Those interested in preparing a proposal are invited discuss their ideas and plans with Thomas Hsiang, Andrew Okun, or Dave Weimer.