

# DC Scholastic Chess

## Pandemic Panic creates Chess Gift away!

At the height of the pandemic members of Chess Girls DC fearlessly, on behalf of the Chess community with a member of the Black Knights, Reggie Luckett distributed over 275 Chess sets to neighborhoods throughout Washington, DC in an effort to stimulate productive thinking, eliminate idle mindedness and avoid depression. Thank you to all of the members of the Chess community who donated generously.



## 2021 Tournament of Champions

During 2021, the District of Columbia still required strict protocol to reduce the spread of the COVID virus.

DC Scholastic Chess hosted the Rockefeller K-5 tournament online. Using Li Chess, Sarah Ramson was the moderator. Nominations to the Rockefeller tournament of champions were based on the students who competed on the Li Chess platform.

The Barber, Denker and all Girls tournament were hosted outside. Special thank you to The U.S.Chess Center for providing it's team to direct the tournament.

The outdoor events were well attended averaging 25 to 30 players per event.



## Sports Diplomacy



### Cross-Cultural Chess

A team from Colombia visits Washington, D.C.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAVID BENNETT

**A** RETELLER TEAM FROM SAN Fernando de Bogota, a small town in the Caribbean coast of Colombia, recently returned to the United States after a week-long visit to Washington, D.C. Their visit — made possible through a sports or athletic exchange program — was a dynamic experience that I fully appreciated, especially after coaching remotely on Zoom throughout the pandemic.

Under the tutelage of Senior Editor Maricela, the Colombian team consists of eight high school students. There's a lot of excitement to each of these unforgettable ambassadors: Maricela has been playing for two years and wants to be an actor; Juan David, with eight years of experience, wants to be a lawyer; Lily, seven years, wants to enter medicine; Minnie, two years, is also interested in medicine; Luis Daniel, seven years, aspires to become a grandmaster; Esteban, nine years, mathematics; Ivan, five years, biology; Juan Diego (the coach's son), nine years, civil engineer.

Bringing the Colombian team to the United States required collaboration among several entities: the Embassy of Colombia, Chess Girls DC, and Capital Area Chess, as well as sponsorship and support from private donors and others in the chess community. The intent was to create a comprehensive cultural experience for the team — one that allowed them to soak up all that Washington, D.C. has to offer while also teaching these new perspectives from various chess coaches. As you can imagine, with so many moving parts, coordinating the visit was truly — meaning even more Zoom meetings! — and the students had to get their medications in time.

But in the end, everything fell into place, and I worked with the team for several hours each morning. In the beginning, it felt like both the team and I were in training. While I assessed their skills with a couple of post-



## Regional success

The 2021 5th Annual Washington, DC Women and Girls tournament was a huge success boasting 61 players.



The 2022 K-5 Rockefeller tournament was successfully held indoors at the Kellogg Conference center. Thank you to the U.S. Chess Center for providing tournament director services.

DC Scholastic Chess events hosted by Chess Girls DC organized a week of training for visiting students at the Colombian Embassy. The training was provided by IM Adu and NM Bennett. The event wrapped up with a tournament that included students from VA,MD,DC. The event was featured in Chess Life magazine.

What's happening ?2022

# DC Scholastic Chess

The 2022 Barber and Denker qualifier tournaments were successfully held indoors. Thanks to our community partners, it was well attended.



Congratulations to the 2022 nominees who will represent the District of Columbia in the National Tournament of Champions

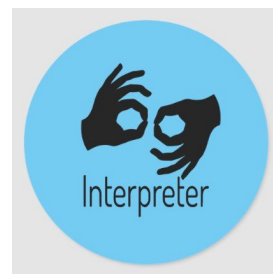
- Rockefeller nominee is Lenox Serrette
- Barber nominee is Ethan Crawford
- Denker nominee is Benjamin Tyrell
- Haring nominee is Sarah Ramson

We are hoping that everyone will be able to attend in lieu of the current challenging travel environment.



DC Scholastic Chess events also hosted a coed community tournament at E.L Haynes School.

## Chess for All



Hosting events that prioritize and give access to persons who are restricted to wheelchairs, hearing impairment and require bilingual assistance is important to DC Scholastic Chess. Your donations support hiring staff to provide services and conduct events that accommodate all persons with special requests. Contact Robin Ramson at chessgirlsdc@gmail.com to help.

## Thank you to the Team



## Spring Gambit

The 1st Washington, DC Women and Girls Regional Spring Gambit was held at the Kellogg Conference Center. Special Thank You to Capital Area Chess who provided tournament director services.



## Capital Area Chess

None of the events would be possible without the volunteers and donors who give unconditionally and tirelessly to the Chess Girls DC Nonprofit Organization to organize the DC Scholastic Chess events. Please contact Robin Ramson at chessgirlsdc@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to donate.

[WWW.DCSCHOLASTICCHESS.ORG](http://WWW.DCSCHOLASTICCHESS.ORG)

### Success is not guaranteed but Opportunity should be

If you would like to Eliminate Barriers to Success, support our Gofundme campaign at

<https://gofund.me/0b1ee9e6>

Sarah Ramson earned the nomination to compete in the Haring tournament of champions. Sarah has been instrumental in previously fundraising to support 3 students to travel to the Barber, Denker and Haring tournaments and now she needs your support.



Our mission is to give all students access to rated chess tournaments in Washington, DC. Students across the metropolitan area are invited to participate. DC Scholastic Chess volunteers are community partners with the US Chess Center, Capital Area Chess care of Chess Girls DC 501c3 Nonprofit Organization. On behalf of the DC State Affiliate of the USCF, DC Scholastic Chess events are produced by Chess Girls DC Nonprofit Organization and endorsed by the DC Chess League and the United States Chess Federation to directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) annual United States Chess Federation (USCF) rated State Championships, directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) annual USCF rated Scholastic State High School, Junior High or Middle School and Elementary School Championships. Examples include but are not limited to statewide or geographically rotating Rated Beginner and Open tournaments as well as participation in National Chess Day Activities, Regional and/or National Championships. Chess Girls DC is endorsed by the USCF DC Scholastic Chess program coordinator to arrange and promote participation and events for women and girls within Washington, DC and the surrounding metropolitan area.