

2025-2026 Annual Report

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

- Since last annual report, we have signed up **149 youth members** to USCF, about a 50% Increase YoY
- **Thursday Classical Now FIDE Rated**



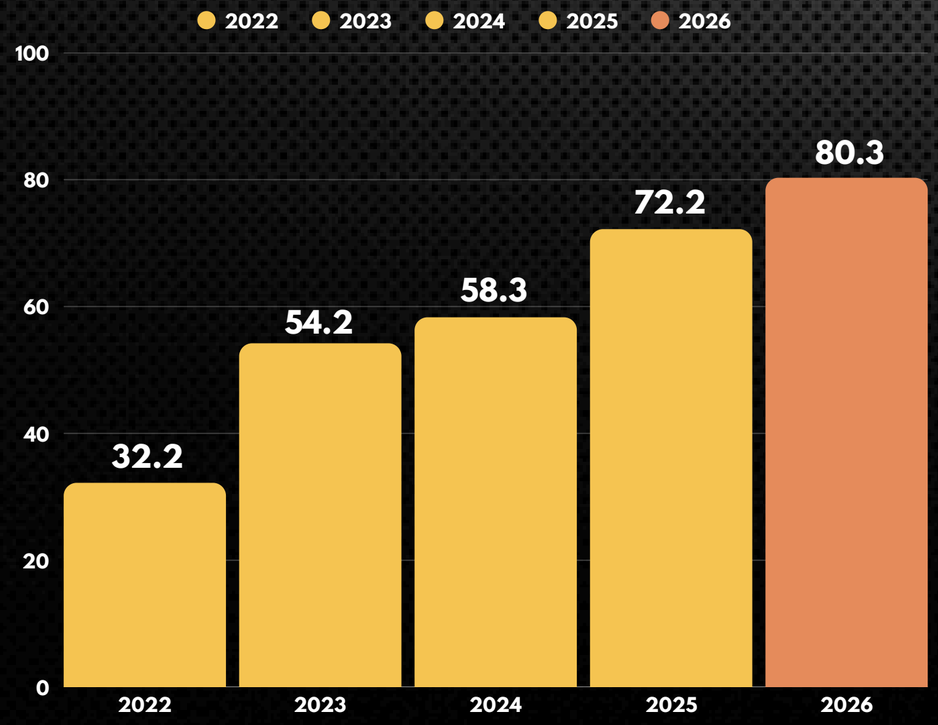
Kid's Night

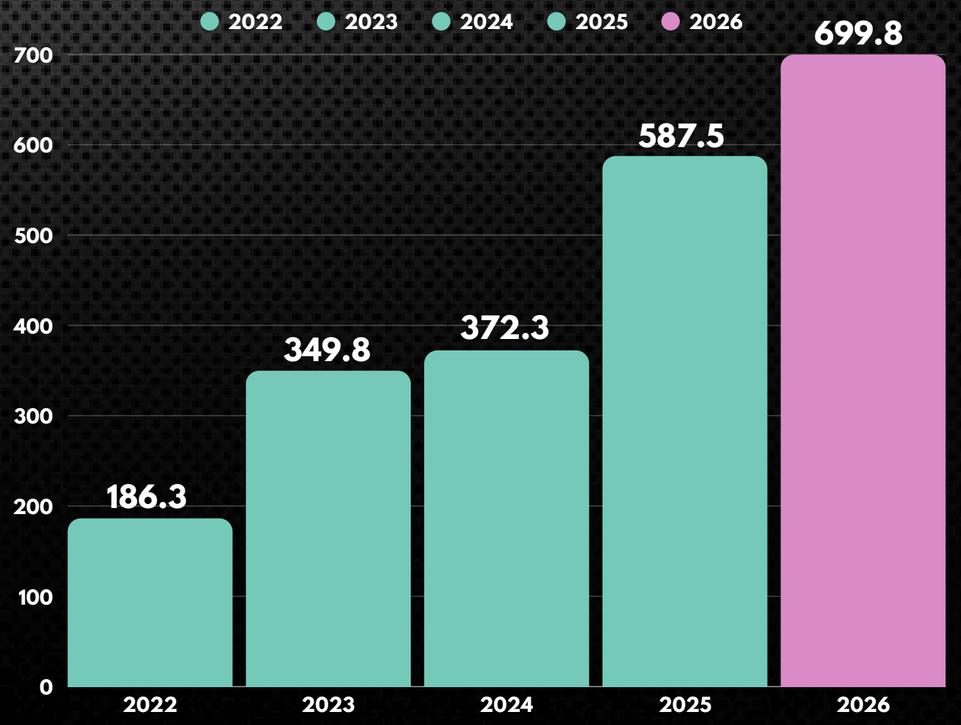


Quad Night



Main Meeting





- Note for historical context. The Club's pre-Covid single weekday peak unique players was 27 (Aug 2009)

EDUCATION



CLASSES

- Classes on Mondays & Wednesdays
- Homeschool class option added (Mon. 11am)
- **115 students** attended in 2025-2026



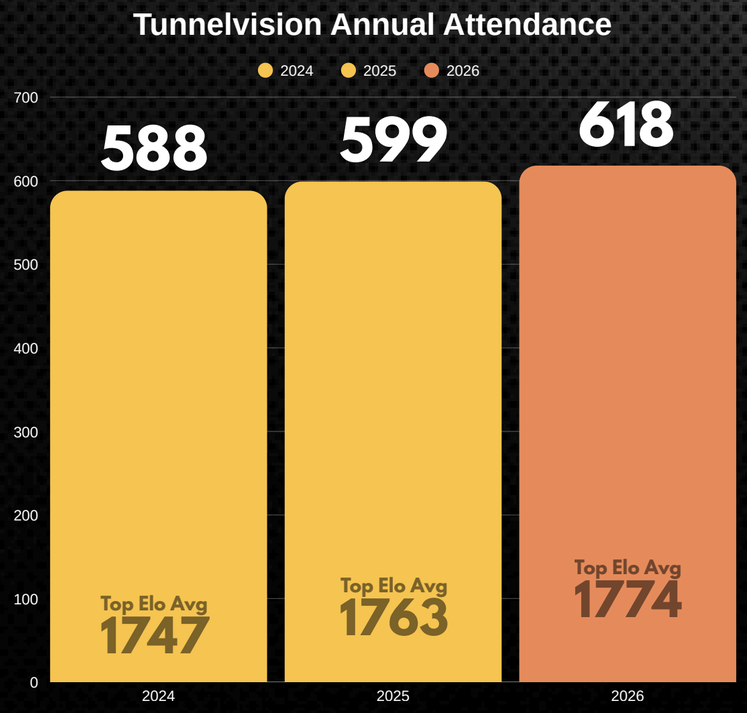
CAMPS

- 4 Foundations Camps (+1 YoY)
  - All 48 Seats Filled! Sold out for 2nd consecutive year.
- 1 Intermediate Camp (+1 YoY)
  - All 12 Seats Filled in Inaugural Year!

EST. 2022

TUNNELVISION





2026 total includes projected Nov-Dec attendance based on YTD numbers

- Every Month, $1000 Guaranteed – On time, Live Streaming to Chess.com, DGT Boards
- 4-Year Anniversary
- November 14, 2026 Tunnelvision L
- Learning Advanced Roman Numerals
- 5% attendance gain YoY for consecutive years
- Tournament strength steadily increasing
- Important for TD Experience Growth

PALMETTO SCHOLASTIC CHESS LEAGUE

SOUTH CAROLINA · SOUTH CAROLINA · COLUMBIA CHESS CLUB















- Scheduled Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- 2025-2026 First Complete Season, **360 Participants**, 6 tournaments (2 at capacity)
- **Expanded to Charleston for 2026-2027 Season.** Both Columbia & Charleston editions set a September Attendance Record with 56 players (**+16 YoY**)

STATEWIDE CLUB RANKS
(LAST 365)

#	Affiliate	Events Held	Players
	Filter	Last 365	Last 365
1	Columbia Chess Club	192 ^ 20	4,144 ^ 663
2	Chess Klub	114 v 85	1,294 v 2,284
3	Greenville Chess Club	67 0	1,066 ^ 236
4	Chess for Everyone	15 ^ 4	158 v 7
5	Greater Greenwood Chess Players Club	13 ^ 13	97 ^ 97
6	Knights of the Upstate	8 ^ 1	359 ^ 64
7	Charleston Chess Club	6 ^ 2	177 v 17
8	Thinkmove Chess Academy	6 ^ 1	99 ^ 23
9	Mason Preparatory School Chess Club	6 ^ 6	86 ^ 86
10	TournaChess, LLC	5 ^ 3	134 ^ 114
11	Spartanburg Chess Club	4 ^ 4	43 ^ 43
12	Beaufort Chess	3 ^ 1	30 v 31
13	Dorchester County Library	3 ^ 1	85 ^ 23
14	Simpsonville Chess Club	1 ^ 1	7 ^ 7
15	South Carolina Chess Assn	0 v 1	0 v 67

NATIONWIDE CLUB RANKS
#7 OUT OF 911 ACTIVE AFFILIATES (LAST 365)

#	Affiliate	State	Events Held	Players
			OTB Only	OTB Only
	Filter	All	Last 365	Last 365
1	Marshall Chess Club	NY	484 ^ 15	17,685 ^ 932
2	Texas Chess Center	TX	434 ^ 139	15,905 ^ 3,915
3	Charlotte Chess Center	NC	377 ^ 11	18,111 ^ 1,667
4	Impact Coaching Network	NJ	373 ^ 31	19,686 ^ 785
5	Bay Area Chess	CA	309 v 1	8,117 v 349
6	Saint Louis Chess Club	MO	222 0	5,597 v 117
7	Columbia Chess Club	SC	192 ^ 20	4,144 ^ 663
8	Dragon Knight Chess	NC	164 v 21	2,417 ^ 63
9	Chicago Chess Center Nfp Inc	IL	158 v 1	2,658 v 539
10	Downriver Chess	LA	138 ^ 6	3,474 ^ 651

STATEWIDE TDS
(ALL TIME)

#	Name	STATUS	EVENTS DIRECTED SC ONLY	PLAYERS DIRECTED SC ONLY	ACTIVE AFFILIATE SC ONLY
	Filter	All	All	All	All
1	Ernest E Nix	Active	591	10,440	Greenville Chess Club, SC (530)
2	James Brandmair	Active	548	12,673	Columbia Chess Club, SC (528)
3	Brandon Michael Jordan	Active	463	11,364	Columbia Chess Club, SC (458)
4	Sean Miller	Active	152	4,531	Columbia Chess Club, SC (135)
5	Daniel Maxwell Smith	Expired	151	4,915	Columbia Chess Club, SC (120)
6	Thomas Thorla	Active	138	4,844	Columbia Chess Club, SC (138)
7	Wilfred A Brown	Active	126	3,087	Greenville Chess Club, SC (87)
8	David Yates Causey	Expired	114	4,144	Charleston Chess Club, SC (85)
9	Robert M Halliday	Active	104	2,424	Columbia Chess Club, SC (101)

NATIONWIDE TDS
TWO TDS IN TOP 10 OUT OF 2,184 BY EVENTS (LAST 365)

#	Name	State	Events Directed OTB Only	Players Directed OTB Only	ACTIVE AFFILIATE
	Filter	All	Last 365	Last 365	All
1	Jordan Langland	CA	303 v 4	8,607 v 5,151	Bay Area Chess, CA (2,621)
2	Thomas P Langland	CA	301 v 2	9,941 v 3,644	Bay Area Chess, CA (2,690)
3	Miguel Garcia	NY	226 v 10	12,466 ^ 1,624	Marshall Chess Club, NY (1,019)
4	Oscar Garcia	NY	222 v 11	10,305 ^ 401	Marshall Chess Club, NY (777)
5	James Brandmair	SC	164 v 1	3,535 ^ 129	Columbia Chess Club, SC (527)
6	Brandon Michael Jordan	SC	161 ^ 13	3,665 ^ 734	Columbia Chess Club, SC (456)
7	Kevin Feng	NY	153 ^ 53	6,518 ^ 2,627	Marshall Chess Club, NY (510)
8	Yifeng Zheng	NY	149 ^ 53	6,419 ^ 2,026	Marshall Chess Club, NY (728)
9	Tianqi Wang	NC	143 ^ 52	3,352 ^ 778	Saint Louis Chess Club, MO (230)
10	Jonathan Schroer	NC	133 v 40	2,801 v 173	Dragon Knight Chess, NC (515)

SOURCE: COLUMBIA CHESS CLUB TD TRAIN PLATFORM USCF RECORD PULL AS OF 10/8/2026

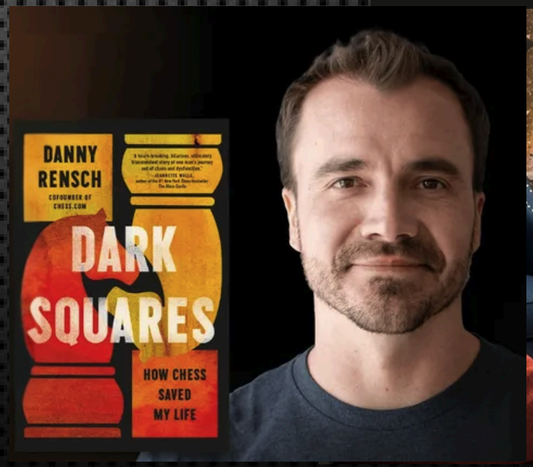






Special Tournaments / Events

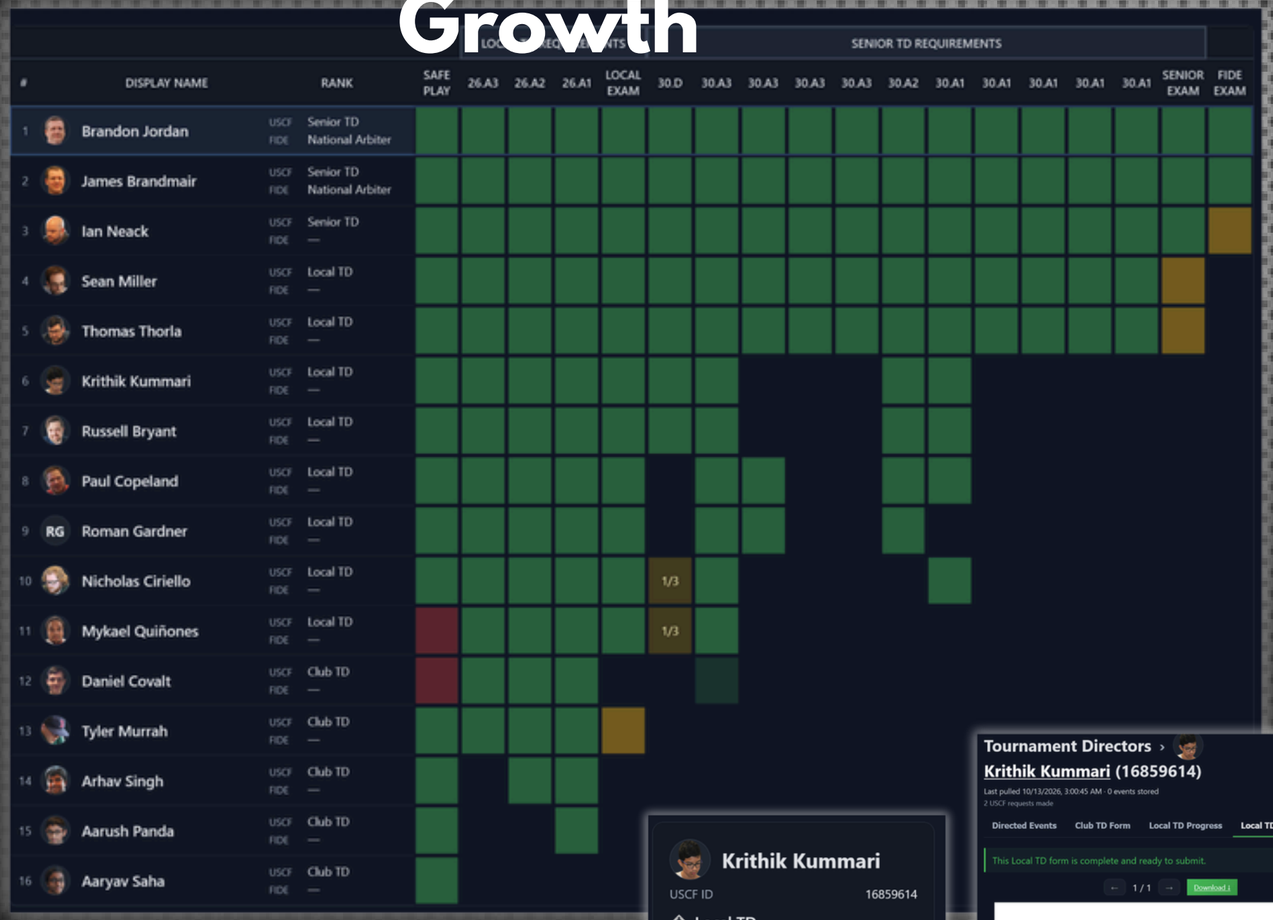
- 2025 SC Championship (sold out, strongest field ever)
- 2025 SC Senior Championship
- IM Danny Rensch Q&A / Simul
- 2026 SC Scholastic Chess Championship
- 2026 Scholastic Finals - Jason Marshal Won US Middle School Tournament of Champions!
- 2026 SC Girl's Scholastic Chess Championship
- 2026 SC State Championship ← [You are Here]
- 2026 Senior Championship, Dec. 11-13, 2026
- 2027 Scholastic Chess Championship / Finals / Girls

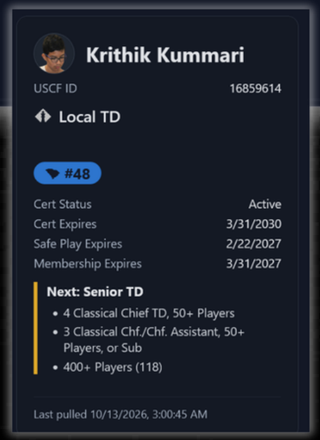


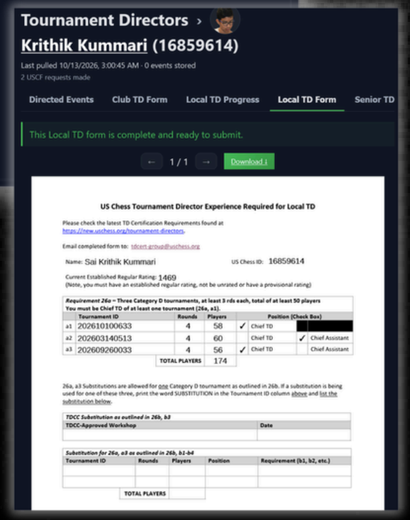




Tournament Director Growth





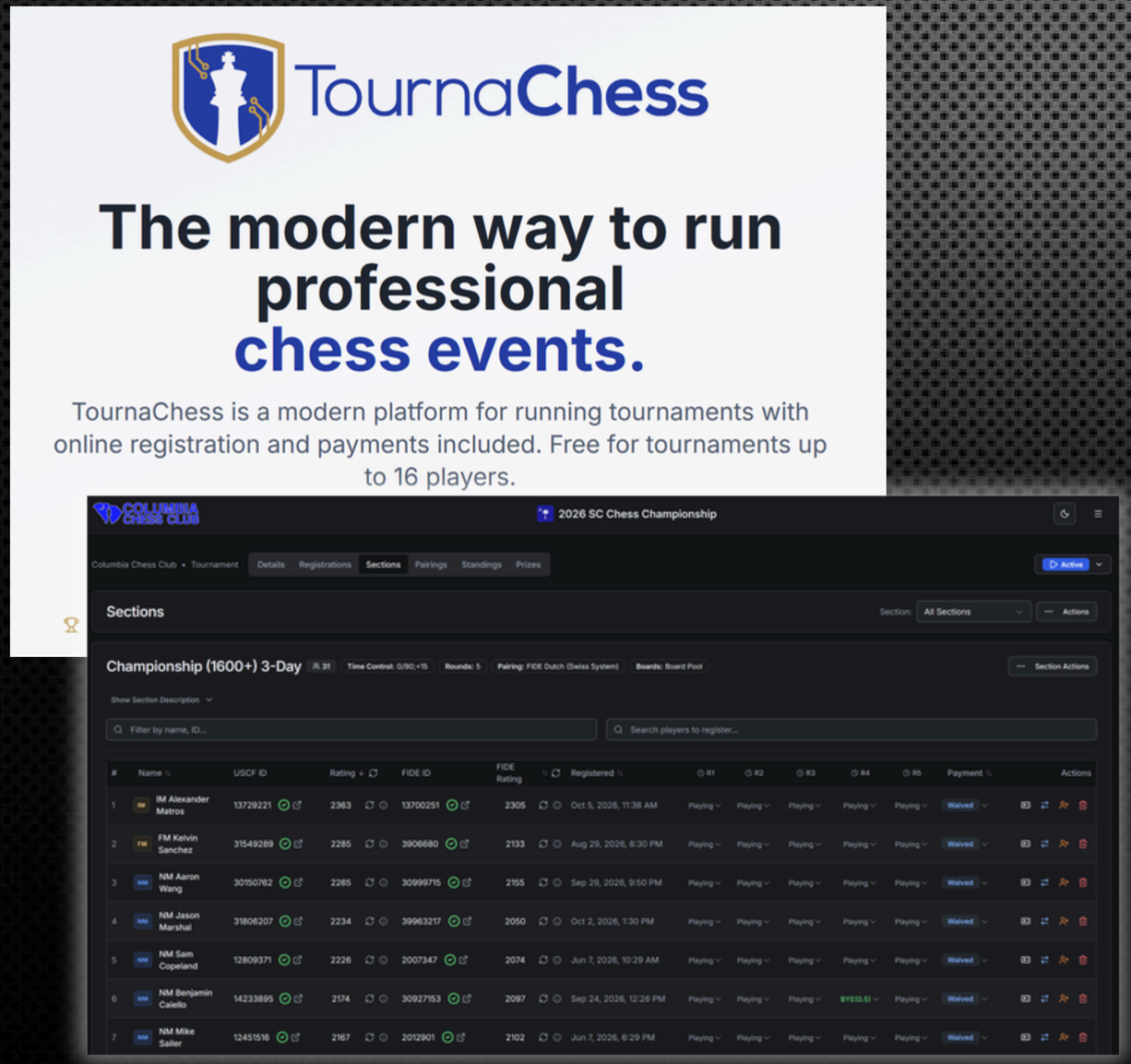


- 3 Senior TDs (+1 YoY - Go Ian Neack!)
- 3 FIDE National Arbiters (+2 YoY)
- 11 Certified Local TDs or above (+3 YoY)
- 16 Total TDs (+4 YoY)
- Developed TD Train software (pictured left) to track TD progress and auto-fill USCF experience forms



2026 Safe Play Training House Party

TournaChess



- **Developed by Russell Bryant, Charleston, SC**
- **Columbia Chess Club consultation has resulted in well over 200+ features and fixes**
- **Columbia Chess Club fully switched from Caissa to TournaChess on July 11, 2026 (Tunnelvision XLVI) after five months of live testing during dozens of weekly events***
- **Significantly reduced effort required to run quality events**















Notable Player Accomplishments

- U1900 Reverse Angle 1st Place, Aaryav Saha
- 4 out of 8 Middle School Scholastic Finalists: Arnav Singh (1st Qualifier / 2nd Place Finals), Aaryav Saha (3rd/5th), Thomas Kemp Jr. (6th/8th), Aarush Panda (8th/6th)
- Charlotte Jordan (6th) and Malai Voravudhi (7th) Girls State Champion
- Abhiraj Saha (2nd Grade) Primary School Scholastic Finalist (7th/5th), U1500 Charlotte Scholastic 1st Place x2
- River Bluff High - Repeat State Scholastic Champions
- Dutch Fork Middle - Repeat State Scholastic Champions
- Arnav Singh Top 100 US, Age 13; Undefeated Carolina's Classic & 1900 Blitz Prize; 3rd Place World Open U2000
- Sean Miller, 1st Place Mt. Pleasant Rapid
- Skylar Harmon, 1st Place (tie), Carolina Classic Scholastic
- Tamaghna Roy Reaches 2000+ Expert
- Vivaan Biswal 1st Place Charlotte Scholastic x2

...and many others

ACCOLADES







2025 Columbia Chess Club Champion: NM Mike Sailer

2025 Columbia Chess Club Player's Choice Awards

- Most Improved Player: Logan Santos
  - Honorable Mention: Chace Nguyen
- Junior Player of the Year: Aarush Panda
  - Honorable Mention: Alvin Jordan
- Player of the Year: Arnav Singh
  - Honorable Mention: Charlotte Jordan
- Coach of the Year: Sean Miller
- Tournament Director of the Year: James Brandmair
- Most Active Player: Thomas Kemp Jr. (95 Events!)

Public Outreach

- Club seeks out opportunities to donate time and equipment to grow chess
- Donations of equipment to Crossroads Intermediate, River Bluff High, Ridge View High, and others pending…

Columbia Chess Club Donates Sets to Crossroads Intermediate Chess Club



The Club is proud to provide a guest lecture and donate chess sets to Crossroads Intermediate School Chess Club run by Mrs. Davidson! W excited to see lots of enthusiasm from the students!

Columbia Chess Club Donates to River Bluff High School.





The Columbia Chess Club is proud to donate chess sets, clocks, and boards, to the River Bluff Chess Team - our reigning high school state champions! Their team is growing significantly!

…de possible by the contributions of our generous …s by donating to the club here: https:// …e our Donor List: https://columbiachess.org/

Club Donates to Ridge View High School!

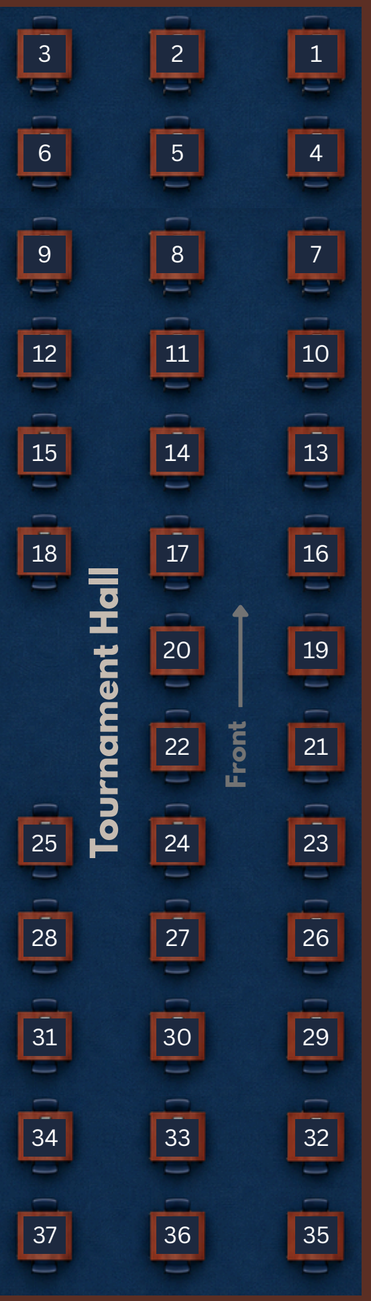


The Columbia Chess Club is proud to donate chess sets, clocks, and boards, to the upstart Ridge View Chess Club! There has been a big boom of interest in chess at Ridge View, and we're excited to see what they'll be able to accomplish!

This and other outreach is made possible by the contributions of our generous donors. You can support chess by donating to the club.

DONATE

columbiachess.org/donate



3 — The Koutroulakis Family Woodpushers
May your openings create advantages

6 — Sponsored by Jack Hoodenpyl

9 — Jason & Hannah Graham & Family
May your middle games scintillate.

12 — Kemira
Community Outreach Eastover SC

15 — In memory of my wife: Rae Yates
16 October 1933 - 8 February 2025

18 — TournaChess

25 — Loren's Table
TAKE CARE

28 — Kathi's Table
FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS

31 — Tyler's Table
THINK - STOP - THINK AGAIN

34 — Beki's Table
WATCH THAT CLOCK

37 — Luke's Table
MOVE WITH ALACRITY

2 — Donated by the Saha Family
Prasun, Madhumita, Aaryav & Abhiraj

5 — The Hughes Family

8 — Nobody Ever Won A Game By Resigning
Aarush (Ricky) & Shanaya Panda

11 — In memory of
MAJ Charles Brown

14 — Stuart and Susan Chagrin
2023

17 — John Michael Yates
In memory of Bobby Fisher

20 — Nothing Worth Having
Is Easily Obtained

22 — Alena Tatum & Thomas Thorla
and Bean Thortum

24 — South Carolina Chess Association

27 — Grimaud Enterprises Inc
d/b/a Precision Tune Auto Care

30 — ThinkMove Chess Academy

33 — Joseph A. Grimaud, Jr.
Diligent effort = results certain.

36 — Christopher's Table
STAY CALM

1 — The Halliday Family

4 — In Loving Memory of
Sean Miller

7 — The Stewart Family

10 — Ashton Al Siva
Age 9 - Carolina Forest, SC

13 — Morgan Caeleb
Age 9 - Carolina Forest, SC

16 — Edsel & Marj Peña

19 — The Ciriello Family

21 — The Sailer & Bradley Family

23 — The Snyder Family

26 — James, keep crushing it bestie! :D
Love, Tracie and Chad

29 — Lumersive Studios
"Level Up"

32 — John Yates wishes for all who sit
at this table a happy end game.

35 — Life is short, so play with zest,
Enjoy the game, my friend, no less.

COLUMBIA CHESS CLUB

The Columbia Chess Club's "Sponsor a Table" program is now complete, with every tournament table in its dedicated hall carrying a permanent custom-engraved brass plaque from a supporter.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to all the individuals, families, and organizations who made this possible, as their contributions equipped the club's permanent space, strengthened its volunteer-run operations, funded quality events, and helped fuel the growth of chess in Columbia and across the state of South Carolina.

Your support has left a lasting mark on the chess community.