

Dear Chess Players:

You are receiving this email because you, or someone in your family, registered for the **5th annual Bienville Chess Classic set for Saturday, April 18, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton, Miss.**

This is an email blast to address some details before we gather on Saturday. We are so excited to have everyone registered for our event. Turnout has been lower than usual, but we are seeing the same trend throughout the tournament season this year. As of this writing, we have 19 registrations with more expected to come in. This is our 12th tournament and through our first 11, we have attracted a combined total of more than 500 players through the years.

We are so grateful, and I thank you so much for participating in what has become a popular event.

Location

For those who have not played in our previous tournaments and/or have never visited **Roosevelt State Park**, it is easy to find. It is just off **Exit 77** from **Interstate 20** east of Jackson.

For GPS purposes, the address is *2149 Mississippi Highway 13, Morton.*

Take the exit onto Highway 13 and head north - following the signs advertising the park. **The park entrance is near the top of the hill on the LEFT.** There is a gas station with a McDonalds across from the entrance.

Drive the winding road and **keep to the right**. At the gatehouse, tell the attendant you are there for the chess tournament. The usual \$2 entrance fee is waived for us. Continue bearing to the right and the Alfreda-Harris Lodge is on the left side after you drive around a final curve. You will see a flagpole out front and there is plenty of parking.

Weather

I have been watching the weather forecasts closely for the past couple weeks.

There is a 20 percent chance of rain, but forecasts have been consistently reporting that the rain is expected to hold off until the evening. We may see some sprinkles, and you may have some showers on the way home. Nothing is expected to be serious.

The day's weather is predicted partly sunny, with a high near 84. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday night** - Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

The facility has a beautiful patio area overlooking the lake for everyone to sit outside. There is limited seating in the facility lobby, but you can bring your own folding chairs if desired. There is patio furniture, but you may bring lawn chairs if you like to enjoy the serenity of Roosevelt State Park - rated one of the best parks in the nation.

Schedule of day

Registration for new players and check-in for pre-registered players begins at 8 a.m. and CLOSES at 9 a.m. The entry fee increases to the late and onsite rate of \$45 at 6 p.m. Friday evening.

If you have any friends still thinking about joining us, encourage them to register as soon as they can to keep the \$40 regular rate.

I do not have a credit/debit card reader so anyone who plans to pay on site should bring cash or a check. *Make checks payable to the Scott County Chess Club.*

You can also use a phone app to pay on site electronically via **PayPal, Venmo, CashApp, or Zelle.**

Check-In

Please arrive by 9 a.m. and check in. Players who are en route to the tournament may call me **(601-507-2772)** ahead of arrival to check in.

If you are running late, and it appears you may not make it in time for the first round, **PLEASE CALL ASAP** so a decision can be made on requesting a first-round bye. Otherwise, **you will be paired with an opponent, and the clock will start at the assigned time.**

There will be a rules meeting as close to 9:15 as possible. Hopefully we can get through that quickly and get everyone seated to start on time.

Showtime!!

The game control time will be 45 minutes with 3 second increments. For new players, this means each player will have 45 minutes to play. Each time you tap the clock, you will receive 3 seconds back. This allows for **notation which is required.** You may use your own notation material or the scoresheets which will be provided and may be kept after each game.

Touch-move will be in effect and en passant is allowed.

The first round is scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. and the second round at **11:30 a.m.**

The 3rd round will start at **2 p.m.** and the final round at **3:30 p.m.** Awards will be presented after the final round is completed.

I realize that many of you will be traveling significant distances and will want to leave as soon as the tournament ends, and I much appreciate your effort to play with us. If you feel that you are in good contention to win or place, please try to stick around so we can include everyone in photos among winners. This also aids in making sure all winners receive their prizes on site.

If you must leave before awards are presented and your result nets a prize, please make sure that I have your contact information to reach you later.

Sections

We will have four sections – **Open, U1200, U800, and U400.** All players should be in the section according to their rating. **Players may play up to a higher level, but not down.**

Due to the registrations received, we have lower numbers of players for some of our sections than usual.

The Open is fine and has 11 players at this moment.

We only have two players in the U1200 section and two players in the U400 section. We have four players in the U800 section. We may have to merge sections and ask players about adjustments.

We still have two full days before the tournament and numbers can improve with more registrations. We will wait a little longer to see what happens with more registrations possible to see if the situation corrects itself.

You can go online and see the field of registered players, ratings, and chosen sections at <https://www.kingregistration.com/entrylist/Bienville2026>.

If you want to change sections, or if any other corrections are needed, please let me know as soon as possible by email by 6 p.m. Friday. I would prefer not to make changes on Saturday morning, if possible, for pre-registered players.

Other Activities/Lunch

A local food vendor plans to set up at our tournament site for convenience. I have eaten with them before and can vouch for their quality.

You can bring your own snacks. If you prefer other options, there is a McDonalds on the highway across from the park entrance and a Subway near the interstate exit. If you leave the park, please be back before round 3 starts. **Pairings will be set and clocks will start at the appointed time.**

QUIET – Keep noise to minimum during games

The Lodge is a great venue for chess, but any **sound travels fast** in the building.

I must ask that everyone **keep their voices low at all times** in the lobby area while rounds are underway. There is very little I can do to mitigate the sound impact so I will need everyone's cooperation.

Skittles

I have rented the main floor where the games will be played and a room upstairs adjacent to the lobby. This room is for players to congregate or outside. Still try to keep noise to minimum and please keep the doors to these rooms **CLOSED at all times**, except when entering and leaving to limit sound traveling to the playing area.

There is another room downstairs just across the breezeway from the main floor which we may use for skittles.

Personal boards

We are blessed to have our own boards and clocks. If you bring drinks to the playing area, please be careful. If you have a personal board/set and clock, you are welcome to bring it for playing casually with others between rounds.

Scoresheets

Notation is required for rated games. While many players use their own booklets or other style of keeping score of their games, score sheets will be available for notation for players who need them. Players may keep score sheets provided by the tournament. Please return pencils to the supplies area for future use. We do not have enough pencils for everyone to keep.

No electronic scoresheets will be allowed during games. If you like using chess engines, you can enter your data after your games are finished between rounds or after the tournament. No electronic devices are allowed during the games in the playing area unless medical related.

Ratings report

I will try to file my ratings report with the tournament results to the US Chess Federation Saturday night, if possible, but it could be Sunday. I will also file results on my website.

Remember, all players' USCF memberships MUST BE ACTIVE. Most of our players' USCF memberships to this point have been confirmed active which greatly aids me in this effort, although there have been a few hiccups. If there are USCF membership issues, please make sure they are resolved before leaving the tournament.

Refunds/Withdrawals

I pray that everyone who has registered will join us and stay through the tournament. If something comes up before your arrival prevents your participation, please notify me by phone **ASAP**.

Any player who has already paid their entry fee and requests to withdraw can receive half of their entry fee. Refunds are not automatic and must be requested if desired. Refunds will be issued no sooner than Sunday.

Any withdrawals after 9 a.m. Saturday will not be eligible for a refund. Anyone who wishes to withdraw during the tournament, please notify me before the start of the next round.

Finally speaking...

I am sure that I am forgetting something, but these are the high points. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. If there is something you think needs addressing in the rules meeting before the tournament, please suggest it.

We have a website scottcountychessclub.org that includes much information about our club operations. Be especially sure to check it after Saturday's tournament for continuous coverage and for announcements of the next two tournaments which have already been set.

The 3rd annual Forest Chess Challenge (Quick/Blitz) will be August 17, 2026, in Forest.

The 6th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic is scheduled for November 7, 2026. *This tournament includes individuals and teams.*

Thank you again for your support and participation. See you on Saturday!!!