

VOL. 3 ISSUE 3 · APRIL 2024

# CHESS JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of the Scott County Chess Club

## Come join us on first Saturdays!

Our meetings are usually held on the **first Saturdays** of each month so everyone can plan ahead to join us.

The **NEXT regular meeting** will be held on April 6 at the **Forest Public Library - 9 to 11 a.m.** (210 S. Raleigh St.)

**Everyone is welcome! All ages and skill levels**  
**NO membership fee to participate**



*Players may bring their own chess set if they have one.*  
*We have boards and sets to use.*  
*(provided by Friends of Forest Library group)*



scottcountychessclub



@scott\_chess



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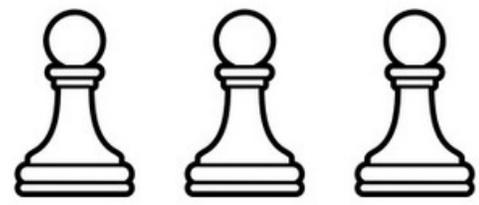
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scottcountychessclub.org



# Chess News Highlights

## New registration process announced

We're back at that time of the year when we will host our spring chess tournament - the 3rd annual Bienville Chess Classic - at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. This time, we have two new partners in the production of our tournaments and we are proud to welcome them aboard.

### Online Registration

We have partnered with **King Registration** to offer online registration services for players to sign up for participation in our tournaments and other competitive events. We are looking forward to working with Bill Buklis who created the program that has rapidly become a popular service for chess players to register for tournaments in Mississippi and across the nation.

We have a link on our web site on the pages that describe our tournaments and include registration information. The link will take you to King Registration where you can provide all of the requested information and make your payment through PayPal, Venmo, or credit/card.

When King Registration opens its link to your PayPal account, we ask that players look for and choose the **Friends and Family** option if possible. This will help us avoid transaction fees and holds on the funds which we have had problems with in dealing with PayPal.

Other tournament organizers have had great experiences with King Registration and we look forward to working with them to make registration for our tournaments as easy as possible.

### Food concessions

At our first tournament in November 2021, we were blessed to have Troop 63 of the Boy Scouts of America in Forest to provide food during a bake sale fundraiser. This allowed our players to have access to food without having to leave the tournament venue and gave the Scouts a chance to raise money.

Unfortunately, the Scouts' schedule has not allowed them to return. While there are food options near the park, we have been looking for additional options to provide food at the tournament site without players having to leave.

We are blessed to welcome the **Friends of Roosevelt State Park**, a support group for the park where our tournaments are held. They will sell concessions including hot dogs, hamburgers, and other items. Sale proceeds will go toward supporting park activities.

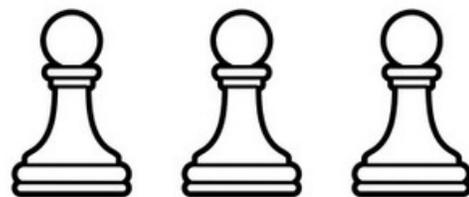
For more information, visit our web site.

## Sponsors

- Community Bank
- Cox Chevron
- Bank of Commerce (Morton)
- Tom Miles
- Priority One Bank
- French's Pharmacy
- Fountain ACE Hardware
- Bank of Forest
- Jack Batte and Sons Lumber Mill
- Joe McGee Construction

## Partners

- Central MS Regional Library System
- Forest Public Library
- Friends of Forest Library
- U.S. Chess Federation
- MS Chess Association
- MS Scholastic Chess Association
- Capital City Chess Club
- Roosevelt State Park
- Forest Baptist Church
- Andrew Jackson Council - BSA
- Community Bank
- SwissSys
- MS Trophy
- Larchwood Designs
- Mississippi Secretary of State
- Go Daddy (web hosting)
- Billy Freeman Photography
- Ingram Printing
- The Scott County Times
- The Spirit of Morton
- SuperTalk MS
- WLBT - Studio 3
- Forest Chamber of Commerce
- Town of Lake
- City of Morton
- Town of Sebastopol
- King Registration
- Friends of Roosevelt State Park



## Chess News Highlights

### Championship honors Rhodes

The first-place winner in the Open section receives a plaque commemorating the Beverly Jo Rhodes Memorial Award, named for a former gifted teacher who started the WINGS program at Forest High School and supported chess among class activities.

Beverly Jo Bracken Rhodes, 80, of Forest, died Wednesday, November 27, 2019. She was a native of Newton. As a young child, she was taught to read by her grandfather, Mr. A.L. Myers, and read constantly throughout her life.

She was a Cum Laude graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson where she attended classes from 8 to 12 and worked at the Jackson YWCA from 1 to 9, riding a street bus to and from campus.

She was on the Dean's and President's List and was a member of the Purple and White Staff, Eta Sigma (scholastic honorary) and Eta Sigma Phi (classical languages honorary).

In 1981 she initiated the WINGS Class for gifted students at Forest high School. Her students excelled in numerous activities including Creative Writing, Quiz Bowl, Art Competitions, **Chess**, Future Problem Solving, Odyssey of the Mind, Stock Market Competition and Mississippi Economics Counsel Competitions. They won state and national awards, and many received college scholarships in part due to their WINGS class activities. She named the class WINGS and often said, "I hope to give them wings, and let them fly."

She always had words of encouragement for her students, urging them to be creative, to attempt new and different activities and to excel in all things but especially in creative writing.

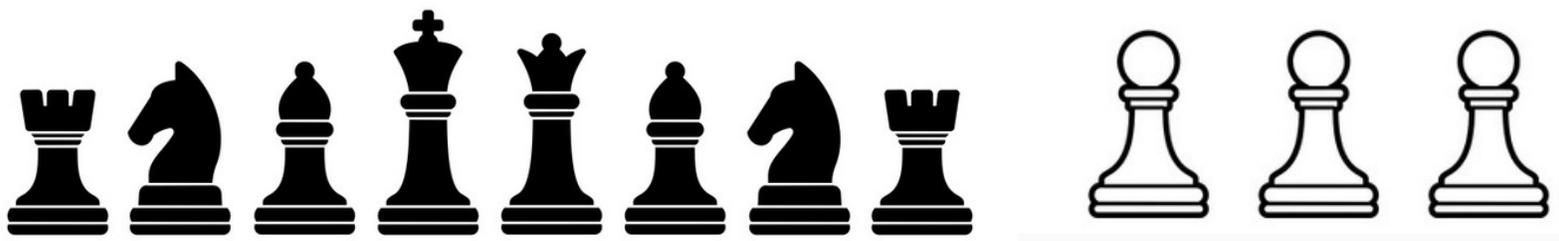
She was sympathetic when they were sad or disappointed. Beverly was an active member of the East Central Talented and Gifted Association and the Mississippi Association for the Talented and Gifted where she served as state treasurer.

The Beverly Rhodes Scholarship is a \$1,000 award given in her honor by the Forest Friends of the Library which is the home of the Scott County Chess Club.



'Chess is like life.  
There are rewards for good choices, consequences for the bad choices.'





**Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament**

## 3rd Annual Bienville Chess Classic is set

MORTON – The 3rd annual **Bienville Chess Classic tournament** is set for **Saturday, April 20, 2024**, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. This event will feature only individuals playing rated and unrated games. **Registration is open!** Our first Bienville Classic in May 2022 attracted 32 players from around Mississippi and we had players come from Louisiana and Florida. The player from Florida won the grand championship after driving 17 hours to play. Last year's tournament attracted 45 players. Our combined turnout for all five tournaments held (including Roosevelt Chess Classic in the fall) is now 251 players - including those returning and new players each time.

Before we go any further, recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our first three tournaments successful. All of them have returned this year and we may even have some new sponsors added. This is a tremendous benefit because their contributions help keep the registration fees and expenses as low as possible which means funds left over after all bills are paid can be carried over to the next event. We really appreciate the support from the community and the businesses who have helped make these tournaments possible.

### 2024 Individuals Tournament

**Roosevelt State Park, Alfreda-Harris Lodge, 2149 MS Highway 13, Morton**

Exit 77 on Interstate 20

**4 rounds – Swiss System – Game control: 45+5**

**active U.S. Chess Federation membership and notation required for rated games**

**RATED - Open** (Cash - \$200 & plaque for 1st, \$100 & medal for 2nd; \$50 & medal for 3rd)

**RATED - U1200** (Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd)

**RATED - U800** (Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd)

**Unrated** (Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd)

Federation membership is **not required** for this unrated section only.

**This section is designed for players just starting out in tournament participation.**

Results will not be sent to Federation but will be posted on our website.

Clocks will be used and notation is strongly encouraged.

#### REGISTRATION

**\$30** entry fee through **Saturday, April 13**

(at midnight April 14 and thereafter, **\$40**)

**To Register Online: Visit [kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2024](https://kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2024) (Recommended)**

This method allows immediate registration using **PayPal, Venmo**, and other credit card options.

**To Register via email:** Send information to [scottcountychessclub@gmail.com](mailto:scottcountychessclub@gmail.com)

Provide Name, U.S. Chess Federation ID Number, Desired section, and Desired method of Payment

(PayPal, Venmo, CashApp) **Email response will be sent upon receipt.**

On site payment is also available if necessary - **cash or check only** - we do not have debit card payment access.



## 2024 Bienville Chess Classic - continued

**\*\*** *If playing in a rated section, please check your membership status with the U.S. Chess Federation to make sure your status is active and renew if necessary before registering.* **\*\***

**\*Skittles rooms** will be available for casual play between rounds.

Everyone is encouraged to bring chairs for lounging.

Updates will be provided by email leading up to the event.

**Concession food will be available for purchase.**

**Registration and Check-in - 8 a.m. until 9 a.m.**

*\*The park charges \$2 per person for entry to the park at the gatehouse.*

**Welcome and Briefing of Rules - 9:15 a.m.**

**Round 1 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Round 2 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Round 3 - 2 p.m.**

**Round 4 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Awards** – *To be presented after all games are completed.*

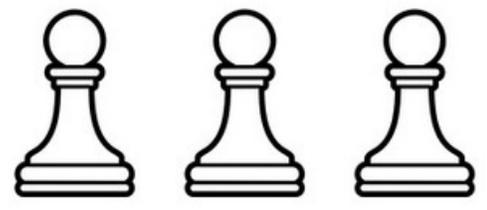
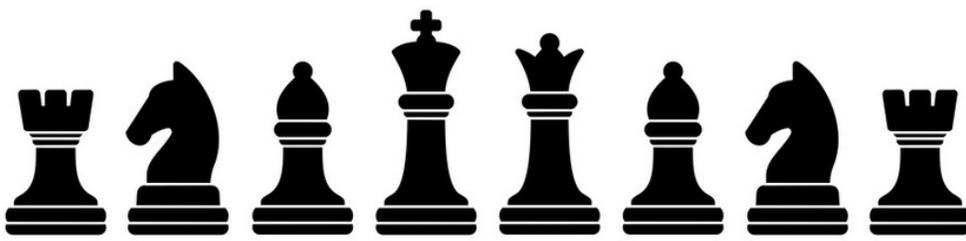
*Please try to stay for the awards presentation if possible.*

\*Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0 \*Requested byes = 0.5

Please make requests before start of desired round.

*No requested byes in final round*

**For more information, visit [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)**



# Chess Calendar

For more information about all listings:  
see our website at [scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)

\* **Scott County Chess Club** will hold a regular meeting  
Saturday, April 6, from 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest  
This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

\* **Senior State Chess Tournament**  
For players age 50 and above  
Saturday, April 6 - Canton

\* **Capital City Chess Club Partner Chess Fun**  
Saturday, April 6 - Pearl

\* **Canton Academy Spring Fling**  
Saturday, April 13 - Canton

\* **Commodore Chess Challenge**  
Saturday, April 13 - Gulfport

\* **Capital City Chess Club Chess League**  
Saturday - April 14 - Pearl

\* **Bienville Chess Classic** \*\*\* Sponsored by Scott County Chess  
Saturday, April 20 - Morton (Details on pages 3-4 in this edition)

\* **St. Augustine Spring Chess Tournament**  
Saturday, April 27 - Ridgeland

\* **Children's Museum Chess Tournament**  
Saturday, April 27 - Meridian

\* **MSCA Rated Chess Championship (Scholastic Only)**  
Saturday, May 4 - Hattiesburg

'I'm here  
because I  
was told  
there would  
be chess.'



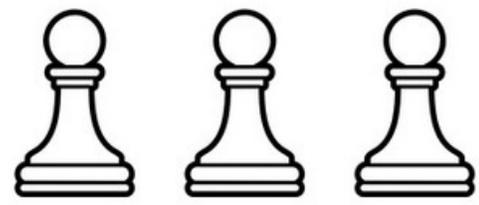
### TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

\* **Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

\* **Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



## Play with an International Master

Dave Ross, an International Master of Chess is a resident of Mississippi and the highest rated player in four local states. Ross teaches chess professionally and can help individuals become much better players.



Chess is his passion and he coaches many of the top players locally along with tournament players via the internet.

In addition to teaching private lessons and attending Mississippi Chess events when possible, Ross is occasionally a featured guest at sponsored simultaneous playing events and instructional workshops.

'A day without chess probably wouldn't kill you, but why risk it?'

## Lessons and games

There will be two opportunities to play and learn chess with International Master Dave Ross in April.

On **Tuesday, April 23, starting at 5:30 p.m.**, Dave will be at the Food Court at the Outlets of Mississippi mall in Pearl where players can participate in a simultaneous game with him.

The entry fee is \$15 and players should arrive by 5:15 p.m. and ready to play.

For more information, contact Beth Thrasher at 601-941-5153.

On **Wednesday, April 24, starting at 5:45 p.m.**, Dave will return to the Food Court where players can participate in a simultaneous game and receive lessons. *Limit of 8 participants - only two places left.* Entry fee \$40

YOU play black and PICK the WHITE OPENING for Dave in a G/40 while he rushes to use his 40 minutes to play the other players.

**80 minutes -- Clock Simul**

**70 minutes -- Game Analyses & Lesson**

For more information, contact Beth Thrasher at 601-941-5153.





## Tournament action is all around

Many chess players are content to just play casually whenever the opportunity arises. This may include accepting a spontaneous invitation from a fellow chess player or attending a local chess club. However, there is another level to the game of chess - *tournaments*.

Tournaments are great ways to see how much progress a player is making in learning and growing in the game by discovering how they stack up against other players. It is also an opportunity to learn from other players in seeing a variety of strategies and styles of play. Like any other competitive activity, it is good to keep a healthy attitude and perspective, but playing in tournaments can reap many rewards.

Some players enjoy just playing in a tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow by competing against a variety of people. Some players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning master, grandmaster status within the U.S. Chess Federation through their rating. It is up to each individual to determine what kind of chess life they wish to have.

In Mississippi, there are many opportunities to participate in tournaments. Clubs around the state regularly host tournament events. The Mississippi Chess Association sponsors a state tournament each fall for adults and youth. Youth may also participate in the annual scholastic tournaments. These events are precursors to representing the state on the national level at many events.

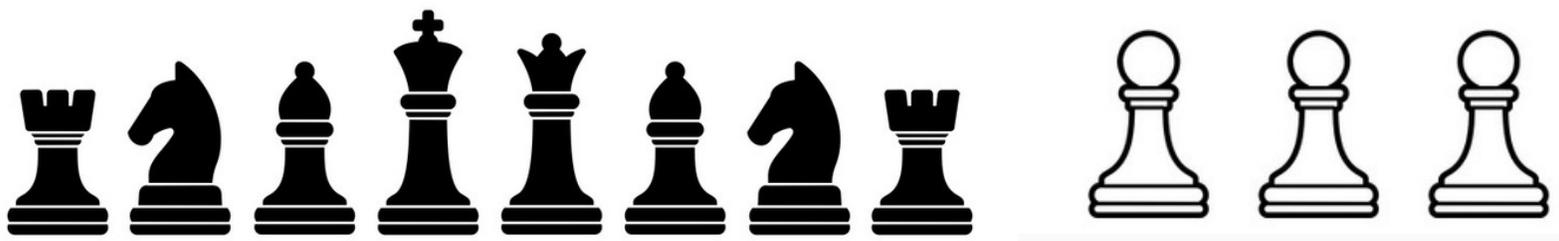
Tournaments include registration fees and players choose what sections they wish to participate in, based on their skill level as determined by their U.S. Chess Federation rating. Tournaments may include teams where individual players' scores are combined and calculated for overall scores. Prizes may include cash, trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons, and certificates.

**See calendar on page 5 and our website for more information!**

**[scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)**

**'Never  
interrupt your  
opponent  
when they  
are making  
a mistake'**





# U.S. Chess Federation

The U.S. Chess Federation, now based in St. Louis, Missouri, regulates and governs the game in the United States. It sanctions tournaments and officials as well as oversees the ratings system that measures players' skills.

Chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits education, rehabilitation, recreation, and friendly competition.

## US Chess Goals

- Expand the educational, social, recreational and rehabilitative applications of chess.
- Increase the visibility of chess on mainstream communications channels.
- Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships.
- Use chess to increase opportunities for under-represented segments of society.
- Continuously improve internal operations and member services.

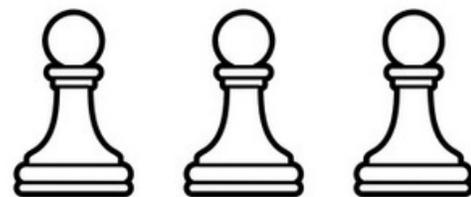
## US Chess Core Values

- **Education.** We promote the transformative power of chess for lifelong personal growth.
- **Customer Service.** We endeavor to be responsive, adaptive and proactive in providing services to our customers.
- **Excellence.** We strive to be the best we can be as an organization and in service to the game.
- **Integrity.** We honor, preserve and promote fair play.
- **Inclusion.** We believe everyone has a seat at the chess table.
- **Love of the Game.** We embrace chess as a historic and iconic game, and we celebrate its history, growth and evolution in our activities and services.

**Players must join the Federation to obtain a membership number which is required when registering for most tournaments and other rated events.** Tournament directors submit results to the Federation which impacts a player's rating.

For more information and to join, visit <https://new.uschess.org/join-us-chess>

*USCF Membership makes for a great Birthday gift!!*



## Grow through chess tournaments

### Clocks and notation

When getting into playing tournaments, two major differences a player will find as opposed from casual play is the use of a **clock** and chess **notation**. These are adjustments that a player needs to bring into his participation, but they are not impossible to incorporate.

The clock simply keeps games from lasting forever and allows tournaments to run smoothly on schedule. It also teaches players the value of making decisions in a reasonable amount of time. While some traditional settings may use analog clocks for nostalgia purposes, most clocks using in modern tournaments are digital.

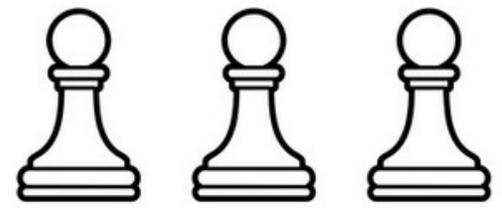
In chess, each player has the same amount of time as determined by the tournament specifications. When a player completes their move, they touch the button on their side of the clock which stops their time and starts their opponent's time. In a tournament, for example allows  $g/45+5$ , this means each player has 45 minutes to play. If a player's time runs out before a checkmate is achieved, the player loses automatically. The  $+5$  means five seconds are added back each time a player touches their clock button to allow for notation.

Notation is a means of writing down your moves and those of your opponent using algebraic symbols and abbreviations. Notation allows players to keep track of their moves so if there is a question or dispute over the legality of a move during a tournament, a decision can be made by a tournament director. In most cases, notation is required when playing rated games.

Notation allows players to keep their games for purposes of reviewing them later to see what mistakes may have been made. Chess teachers use notations with students in helping them improve. Notation also allows more experienced players to make their games available to other players to help them improve. It is widely used in chess publications where games are shared.

'The number 1  
rule of chess  
is to  
**HAVE  
FUN!**





## Benefits of playing Chess

- **Improves concentration and memory.** According to studies done at the University of Memphis, playing chess significantly improves children’s visual memory, attention span, and spatial-reasoning ability.
- **Enhances reading and math skills.** With its focus on problem solving and move variables, chess can improve math skills. Studies show that chess improves reading skills as well.
- **Fosters logic, critical thinking, and creativity.** Chess favors the “if-then” thinker. “If I move here, then my opponent may move here, here, or even here.” That’s logic and critical thinking in action! Studies also show that chess boosts creativity, most dramatically in one specific area—originality. Playing chess helps unleash your originality, since it activates the right side of the brain, the side responsible for creativity.
- **Encourages and rewards hard work.** Chess offers immediate feedback. Lose your focus, lose a piece. Practice and study the strategies, win more games. In chess, you control your destiny.
- **Promotes brain growth.** Games like chess that challenge the brain actually stimulate the growth of bodies that send out signals from the brain’s neuron cells. Communication within the brain improves and becomes faster.
- **It exercises both sides of the brain.** A study indicated that when chess players were asked to identify chess positions and geometric shapes, both the left and right hemispheres of the brain became highly active.
- **Raises your IQ.** At least one scientific study has shown that playing the game can actually raise a person’s IQ.
- **Helps prevent Alzheimer’s.** A study found that people over 75 who engage in brain-games like chess are less likely to develop dementia than their non-board-game-playing peers.
- **Increases problem-solving skills.** Chess requires fast thinking and problem-solving on the fly because your opponent is constantly changing the parameters.
- **Teaches planning and foresight.** One of the last parts of the brain to develop during adolescence is the area responsible for judgment, planning and self-control. Chess helps this area’s development and helps teenagers make better decisions in all areas of life.
- **Optimizes memory improvement.** Playing chess improves your memory, mainly because of the complex rules you have to remember, as well as the memory recall needed when trying to avoid previous mistakes or remembering a certain opponent’s playing style. Many chess players have exceptional memory performance and recall.
- **Improves recovery from stroke or disability.** Chess develops fine motor skills in individuals who have disability or have suffered a stroke or other physically debilitating accident. This form of rehabilitation requires the motion of chess pieces in different directions (forward, backward, diagonally forward motion, diagonally backward motion), which can help develop and fine tune a patient’s motor skills, while the mental effort required to play the game can improve cognitive and communication skills. Playing can also stimulate deep concentration and calm, helping to center and relax patients who are experiencing different degrees of anxiety.

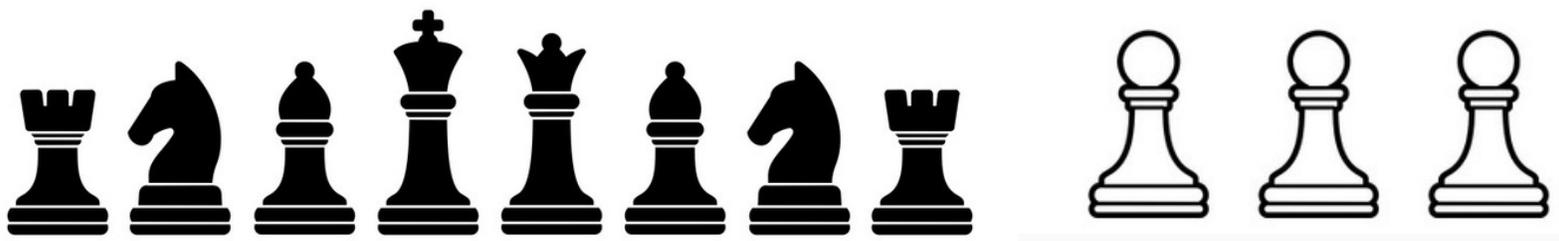
**Most of all - Chess is FUN!**

**'Life is full of important choices.'**

**'In chess, there are no losers.'**

**Either you win or you learn ...**

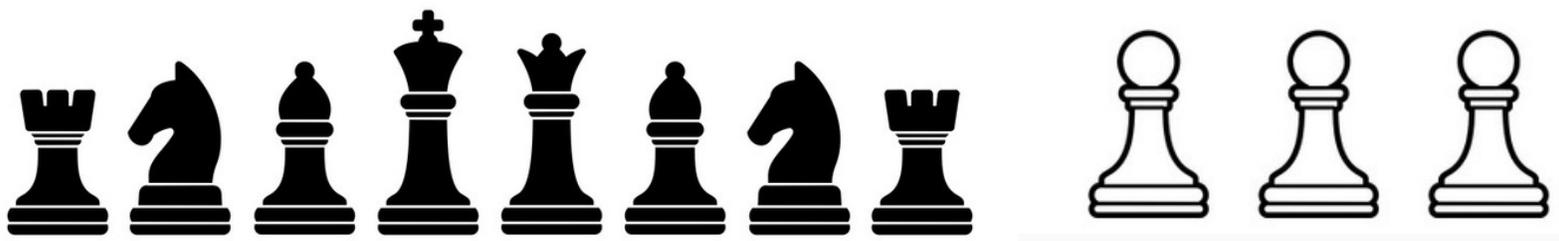
**sometimes both.'**



The #1 rule in chess - HAVE FUN!

*Chess Scenes in Scott County*



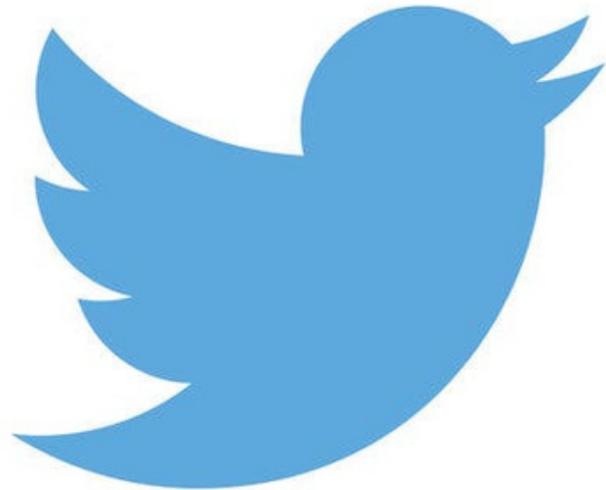


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**[scottcountychessclub.org](http://scottcountychessclub.org)**