

(Published on Wednesday, April 9, 2025)

Dear Tournament Players:

This is an email blast to address some details before we gather on Saturday.

We are so excited to have everyone register for our event. I am pleased to report that as of this moment, I have 32 registrations. A few more could trickle in as walk-ins. *[Eventual participation was 38 players]*

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 off 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 directly across from the entrance.

Drive down the winding road and keep to the right. At the gatehouse, inform the park staff member that you are there for the chess tournament. The park entrance fee has already been handled. The Alfreda-Harris Lodge is around the curve to the right and on the left side. You will see a flagpole out front and there is plenty of parking.

Weather – Beautiful – A+

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

As of now, forecasts call for a clear weekend and moderate to warm temperatures. There is no rain in the forecast, which is great for us. Chances are good that it holds together.

The National Weather Service reported Wednesday evening that Saturday will have a high of 69 with sunny skies and low 43 Saturday night. Winds North/Northwest about 5 mph.

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.

USCF Membership Status

It is critically important – and required - that everyone's U.S. Chess Federation membership is ACTIVE on the day of the tournament. The King Registration online program detects expired memberships. It is most helpful to make sure your membership is current before registering. **It appears as of this email that everyone is good to go.**

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.

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, or CashApp.

You can still pre-register online (preferred before 7 p.m. Friday, April 11) through www.kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2025.

Players who are en route to the tournament may call me 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 ME 601-507-2772** 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.

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

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.

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.

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 this 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 or choice. Players may play up to a higher level, but not down.

You can go online and see the field of registered players, ratings, and chosen sections at www.kingregistration.com/entrylist/Bienville2025.

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

Lunch

We are very blessed to have the Friends of Roosevelt State Park support group provide food for purchase during the tournament. Proceeds from these sales go back into supporting activities at the park.

The group plans to make the following food available: pizza slices, hot dogs (beef), chips, macaroni and cheese (homemade), and drinks. Prices are below \$10

The group prefers payment in cash, but they do have PayPal, Venmo, and CashApp if needed.

You may bring your own snacks. Although I encourage supporting the Roosevelt Park group, there is another event planned at the park near our tournament which will include food trucks and 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 the next round starts.

Quiet

The Lodge is a great venue for chess, but sound travels fast in the building and the big door you will see that separates the main floor from the lobby area will not close.

I must ask everyone: **keep your 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.

The larger patio outside is far enough away from the tournament play area that sound does not impact as much, but please be mindful of sound in the smaller patio area along the windows that look into the tournament play area. Sound can easily penetrate the windows and impact players whose games are underway.

Skittles

I have rented the entire building. The games will be played on the main floor and there is a room upstairs adjacent to the lobby and one downstairs just across the breezeway from the main floor. These rooms are for players to congregate. Still try to keep noise to minimum in these rooms and **please keep the doors to these rooms always CLOSED while games are underway**, except when entering and leaving, to limit sound traveling to the playing area.

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, there will be score sheets available for notation if needed. Players may keep score sheets provided by the tournament. Pencils will also be

provided. If you use one of our pencils, please keep it with you throughout the tournament and return it at the end so we may use it for future tournaments.

Ratings report

I plan to file my ratings report with the tournament results to the US Chess Federation Saturday night if possible. King Registration flags any USCF membership that is not active which greatly aids me in this effort. Any membership issues **MUST** be resolved before the tournament day, or at the very latest before the tournament is completed on Saturday. I will also file results on our website and with the events at SwissSys.com.

Refunds/Withdrawals

I pray that everyone who has registered will join us. If something comes up, please notify me by email **ASAP** of any withdrawal.

Any player who has already paid their entry fee and requests to withdraw after 9 a.m. Friday, April 11, but before 9 a.m. Saturday can receive a partial refund (half) of their entry fee.

Refunds will be issued no sooner than Sunday.

Any withdrawals after 9 a.m. Saturday when pairings will be set 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 so that pairings can account for the absence.

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.

We will host the **Forest Chess Challenge** at Penn's Restaurant in Forest on **August 16, 2025**.

This is a Quick and Blitz format

We will host the **5th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic on November 1, 2025**, at Roosevelt State Park. *This will include individual and team competition.*

If anything needs to be addressed after the tournament, I will send a post-event email to everyone as a follow up. This may include a lost/found item left behind to be returned to its owner (which has happened before) or any other issue that is important enough for attention.

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