

VOL. 5 ISSUE 6 · JUNE 2026

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 June 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



Scott County Chess



This issue:

Orientation
PAGE 02

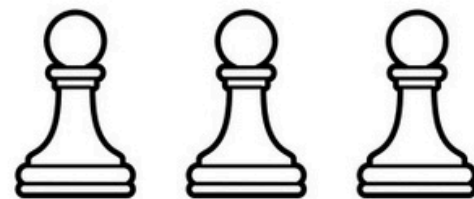
'Good Things'
PAGE 03

Wing Dang Doodle/LakeFest
PAGE 04

Forest Chess Challenge
PAGE 05

Roosevelt Chess Challenge
PAGE 06-08

scottcountychessclub.org



Chess News Highlights

Orientation 2026

Highlights include getting started

Everyone interested in learning to play chess is encouraged to attend and participate in an orientation program.

The Scott County Chess Club will host an orientation meeting on June 6 during its regular monthly meeting.

The program is part of continued recognition of the club's founding and enhanced opportunities for people to get involved in chess. All activities are free and open to the public.

"Although anyone can start learning and playing chess with us at any of our meetings throughout the year, we like to go a little further in with the orientation programs in commemoration of our club's founding. We'll use additional resources to help illustrate the information provided while introducing new players to chess," said Chris Allen Baker, club founder and coordinator.

Anyone can attend any meeting during the year to get started in the game. The club meets on the first Saturday of each month at the library unless there is a tournament scheduled for that day. The regular club meeting would be delayed one week, or skipped to the next month.

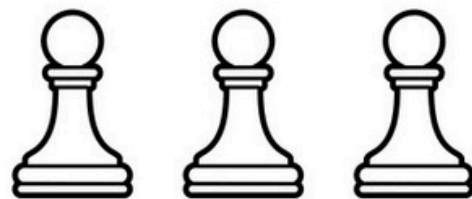


Sponsors

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
MS Secretary of State
Go Daddy (web hosting)
Ingram Printing
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

Chess is a ‘Good Thing’

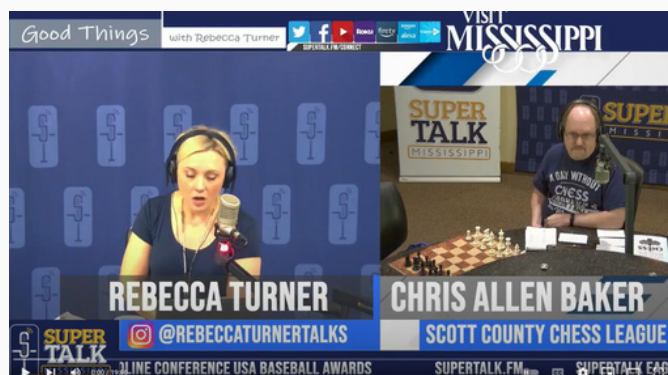
The Scott County Chess Club is lining up another visit to appear on “**Good Things with Rebecca Turner**” on the SuperTalk Mississippi Radio Network. We have usually appeared on the show in May or June, but schedule conflicts have postponed our efforts.

An airdate has not been finalized, but an announcement will be made on our website and on social media sites.

We have been blessed with great support from Rebecca’s show in spreading the message of chess across Mississippi. We have hosted leaders in the chess community including a 4-time chess state champion and members of the state chess association, educators, and others.

You can hear and view past shows and other appearances through our website: <https://scottcountychessclub.org/video%2Fmedia-gallery>

“Good Things” airs Mondays through Fridays from 2 until 3 p.m. and can be found at this address: <https://www.supertalk.fm/shows/goodthings/>



'Chess is like life.

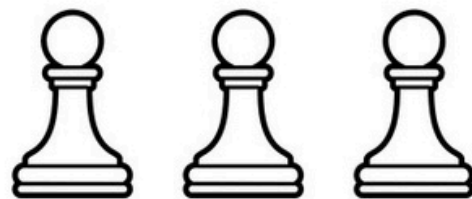
There are rewards for good choices, consequences for the bad choices.'

Congratulations to Franklin Chess

The Scott County Chess Club would like to offer congratulations to the Franklin Chess Center in Meadville in celebration of 10 years of operations.

Through a generous anonymous donor, Dr. Jeff Bulington brought chess education to an underserved area of Mississippi and changed students’ lives through the game.

The students now compete successfully on state and national levels. For more information, visit: <https://franklinchess.com/>



Chess News Highlights

Wing Dang Doodle is Sept. 26

The Scott County Chess Club will make its fifth appearance at the annual festival

Mark your calendar - we are already looking forward to the Wing Dang Doodle Festival at Gaddis Park in Forest.

The date is set and, with cooperation from the weather, will be a wonderful experience.

Originally known as the Broiler Festival, the event was rebranded to feature all things poultry and includes fun, fellowship, music, arts and crafts, great food, and more.



The Scott County Chess Club will have an information booth set up where people can stop by for details about how to get involved in chess. There will also be an opportunity to play the game on boards set up under our tent.



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

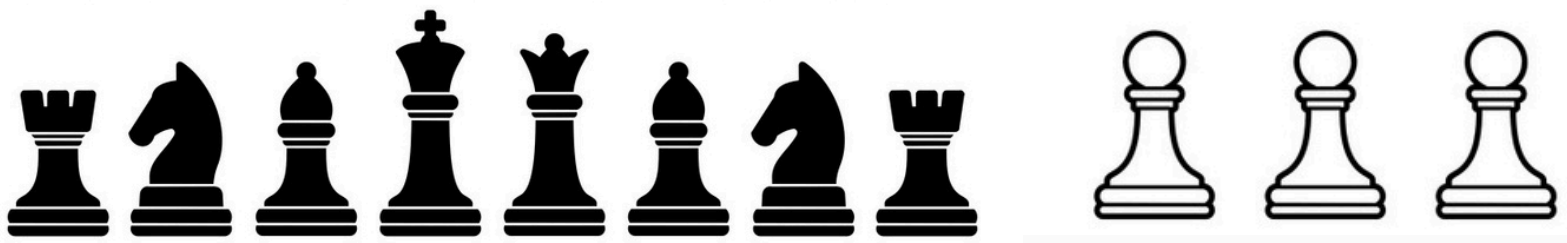


Lakefest 2026 did not work out for us this year

We had great expectations for a return to LakeFest in 2026 after a wonderful response in 2024. Mother Nature had other plans and the event did not proceed as we hoped it would in 2025. We attended, but torrential rains dampened our efforts on both the original date and the re-scheduled date.

This year, schedule conflicts prevented us from making a return appearance.

The experience will not stop us and we plan to return to LakeFest in 2027.



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

Forest Chess Challenge returns for speed chess

FOREST – The 3rd annual **Forest Chess Challenge tournament** is set for **Saturday, August 15, 2026**, at Penn's Restaurant in Forest. This event will feature individuals playing rated games in quick and blitz styles of chess.

Our first Forest Chess Challenge in August 2024 attracted 15 players from around Mississippi. It is the third tournament series created by the club and contributed to a current total of 347 players who have participated in nine tournaments held in Scott County.

The tournament will feature five rounds of Quick chess in the morning, which is games played with 15 minute limits, and five rounds of Blitz in the afternoon, which is games played with 5 minute limits. Cash prizes will be offered to winners.

While we continue to appreciate our sponsors who generously donate funds annually to help make our other two tournament series successful, this tournament series is self-supported without sponsor donations. Operation and prize funds are generated solely from registrations received.

Quick and Blitz are unique styles that challenge players' abilities to think even faster and play with greater speed. It has traditionally been a popular style within the chess community. We look forward to providing this opportunity to meet the needs of this segment of the chess family.

Penn's Restaurant, 1550 MS Highway 35, Forest

Exit 88 on Interstate 20 east of Jackson

10 rounds – Swiss System (no elimination)

active U.S. Chess Federation membership **required**

ALL RATED Sections - Open and U1000

Notation is *NOT* required; regular ratings from most recent USCF supplement used for pairings.

Quick

5 rounds G/15 (no delay or increment)

Registration 8 until 9:30 a.m.

Blitz

5 rounds G/5 (no delay or increment)

Registration/check-in 1:30 p.m.

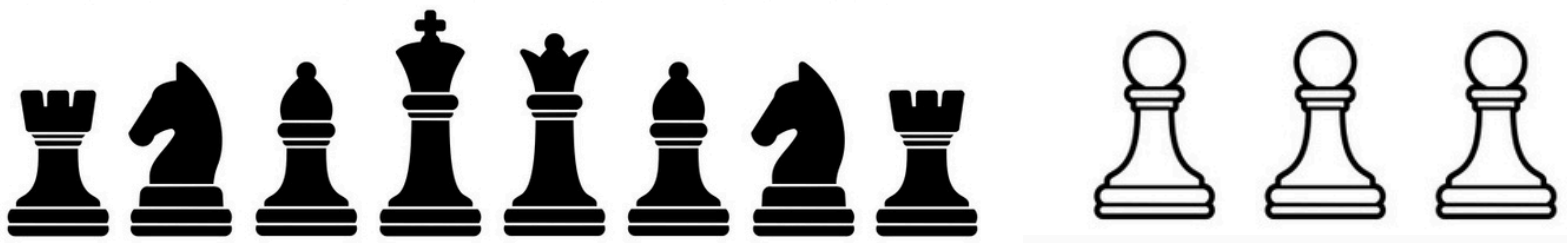
Prize funds come from 80 percent of registrations; first and second place awards

Registration: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/ForestChallenge2026>

Early Bird Entry Fee: Quick only - \$25, Blitz only - \$25, Both - \$30

Deadline: 11:59 p.m. August 8, *fees increase after this deadline.*

Visit scottcountychessclub.org **for more information**



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

6th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic

MORTON – The 6th annual **Roosevelt Chess Classic tournament** is set for **Saturday, November 7, 2026**, at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. This event will feature individuals and teams playing rated games.

Our first Roosevelt Classic in November 2021 attracted nearly 50 players from around Mississippi and we had players come from Louisiana, Tennessee, and Florida. In 2022, the tournament included 69 players from Mississippi and Louisiana. We had 59 players in 2023 and we set a new record in 2024 with 75 players and we had about 50 last year. Our combined turnout for all tournaments is now 532 players, including those returning and new players.

Registration is open! The listing is on King Registration with initial information which may have some changes. All details will be final after September 1.

Before we go any further, recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our tournaments successful. Most of, if not all, of them have expressed an interest to continue 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.

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

Exit 77 on Interstate 20

4 rounds – Swiss System – Game control: 45+3

active U.S. Chess Federation membership and notation **required; All games are rated**

All Rated Sections - Open, U1200, U800, U400

INDIVIDUALS

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

U1200 (Cash \$50 and trophy for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

U800 (Cash \$50 and trophy for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

U400 (Cash \$50 and trophy for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

TEAMS

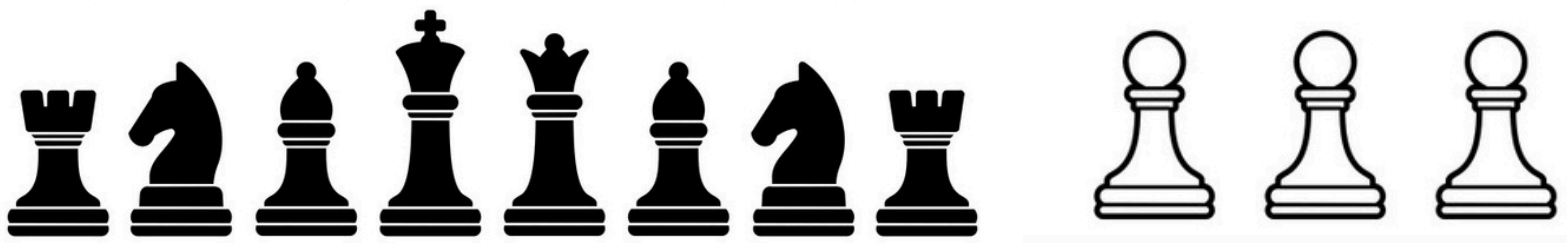
Players may form teams with any number of players above the minimum of four.

Each team player will compete in their respective section according to their rating, or play up.
The four players with the best scores among their team members are used to calculate their team score.

The first place team will win championship and those four members will receive medals and \$100 collectively.

School sponsored and independent teams are welcome.

**** Please check your membership status with the U.S. Chess Federation
to make sure your status is active and renew if necessary before registering. ****



2026 Roosevelt Chess Classic - continued

REGISTRATION Online: <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/Roosevelt2026>

Early Bird Discount: \$35 per player

*Discount expires at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31. **Regular rate: \$40 per player begins***

*Late and Onsite Registration: **\$45 per player begins 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6***

No registrations accepted after 9 a.m. Nov. 7

TEAM REGISTRATION

Players wishing to form teams should designate a team captain who will register members together in one transaction.

School teams - Coaches should register players in same transaction

All teams should be registered by noon, Friday, Nov. 6;

Individuals' final deadline is 9 a.m. Nov. 7

*King Registration utilizes **PayPal, Venmo, and credit/debit card payment methods**. King Registration is preferred, but if different payment method is needed, please contact tournament director via email at scottcountychessclub@gmail.com. In email, provide name, active USCF #, desired section, desired payment method, Other electronic options include CashApp and Zelle. Paper check and cash on site methods are available. Make checks payable to the Scott County Chess Club.*

Schedule

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

All players must arrive by 9 a.m. so tournament can start on time.

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 final round

(Please try to plan to stay for awards if possible)

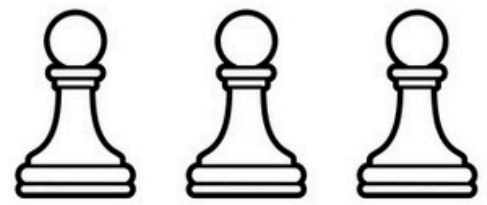
Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0

Requested byes = 0.5 (make requests before start of round)

Players who have byes in the same round may request to play extra rated game.

Tiebreakers Ties will be settled by SwissSys computer program. Cash prizes will be split per USCF rules.

Computer tiebreakers will determine trophy and medal recipients.



2026 Roosevelt Chess Classic - concluded

Important Tournament Notes

The park entry fee is already handled. Advise gate personnel that you are participating in the chess tournament. *While the tournament will still be held at Roosevelt State Park, it will be in a different building on the other side of the lake. More details will be announced later.

- Registered players will receive a pre-event email on Wednesday prior to tournament including important last minute details.
- Everyone is encouraged to bring chairs for lounging between rounds. Seating is limited; an outdoor patio is available.
- Concession food options will be available on site. Cash and electronic payments accepted.
- Skittles areas will be available.
- Please submit any requests for change of section by 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6.

More information is available on our website scottcountychessclub.org
Send questions or requests via email to scottcountychessclub@gmail.com



Building on our success

We are proud of the progress we made since our first tournament in 2021. Our growth has been amazing.

In 2024, we set a new record of 75 players participating. One of those players was Justin Sarkar, an International Master, who flew from New York to participate in our tournament and left with the championship.

We welcome everyone to play with us in each of our tournaments. For more information, visit: scottcountychessclub.org