



VOL. 5 ISSUE 1 · JANUARY 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.

However, due to the library being closed for New Year's observance, we will meet on the second Saturday in January.

The **NEXT regular meeting** will be held on **January 10** 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.*



scottcountychessclub



@scott_chess



scottcountychess



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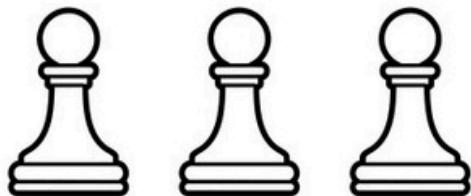
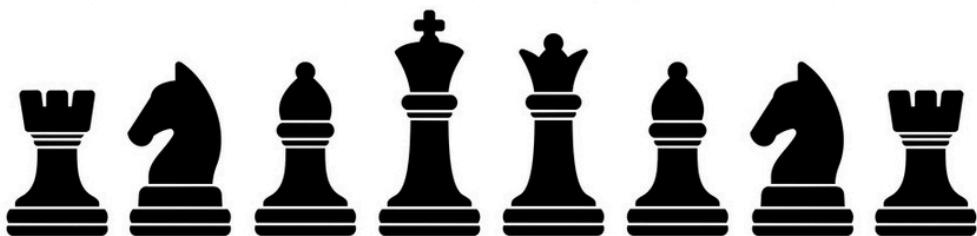
Bienville Chess Classic

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Social Media

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scottcountychessclub.org



Highlights in Chess

Review and Preview

We're celebrating our past year's success, looking forward to a bright future

Building on the success we celebrated in 2024 with our record-setting tournament, the year 2025 saw continued achievements to carry momentum into the new year.

There is more potential for us to take another step forward in growing chess in Scott County.

We begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported us since our inception. We continue to use social media and a website for online publicity. *The Scott County Times* and *The Spirit of Morton* newspapers have remained generous in publishing stories. Monthly email blasts are sent to members and others. A club newsletter is distributed monthly via email for members and others interested in our activities. We attend events, use display boards, and distribute flyers for additional publicity.

We received continued support from the business community in supporting our tournaments through sponsorships. We have 10 businesses in Scott County who have helped to fund our events.

April - We hosted the fourth annual Bienville Chess Classic and again saw a turnout at Roosevelt State Park with **90** players from across the state. This year's tournament is set for April 18.

May-June - Club hosted two instructional meetings on introducing new players to the game.

June - Club Coordinator Chris Allen Baker returned as a guest on "Good Things" with Rebecca Turner on the statewide radio network of SuperTalk Mississippi. He was accompanied by Paul Smith - a fellow MCA board member and chess instructor. Discussion included chess in schools.

July - Baker again assisted the Mississippi Chess Association as a director for the annual team tournament event at Jackson Prep.

Continued next page



In ancient Roman myth, Janus is the god of beginnings, time, transitions, and endings.

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

Crown 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

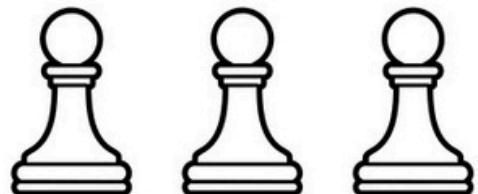
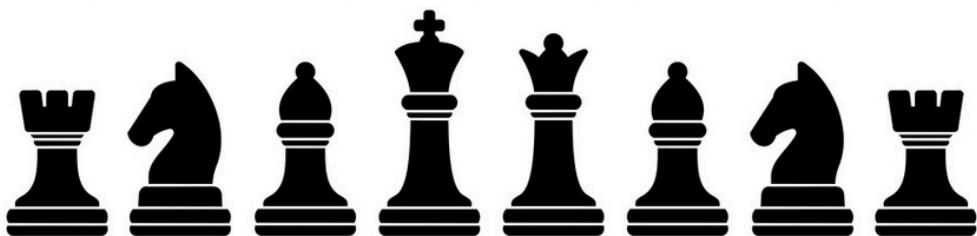
Town of Lake

City of Morton

Town of Sebastopol

King Registration

Friends of Roosevelt State Park



Highlights in Chess

August - We hosted our second quick and blitz tournament at Penn's Restaurant in Forest, called the Forest Chess Challenge. The participation improved from the first year to include 20 players. It was a great opportunity to provide a different format for players who enjoy that kind of tournament.

September - We hosted our information booth at the Wing Dang Doodle Festival in Forest and saw a good number of visitors who expressed an interest in the game. Several people played the game on boards we provided in the booth.

October - The club partnered with the Forest Library to host the 3rd annual Randy Richardson Memorial Chess Camp for youth in the community. The camp, aimed at grade school students, included a morning of chess instruction and lessons. Due to the library hours available, we were unable to include the mock tournament portion of the camp, but we hope to bring it back in some form in 2026.

The club partnered with the Mississippi Chess Association in participating in a display at the Mississippi State Fair in Jackson. Information was available about the game and there was a good response as many people stopped at the display where they had the opportunity to play the game. It was great exposure for the game.

November - We hosted the fifth annual Roosevelt Chess Classic and again saw a strong turnout at Roosevelt State Park. We hosted 50 players from across Mississippi and two other states. Participation included individual and team players.

Looking ahead to 2026

We are still feeling the effects of what COVID did to us (and many other organizations) in 2020. Our efforts to rebuild to the pre-COVID number of participants has been slow but we are still working hard to make opportunities to learn and play chess available to Scott County.

We will embark on a publicity campaign to spread the word about our organization and hopefully bring more people into our monthly meetings at the Forest Library. We usually meet on the first Saturday of a month from 9 until 11 a.m. unless the library is closed for some event or we have another event happening elsewhere.

Our website scottcountychessclub.org is the best source of information about everything we are doing and have done. It is updated each week. We also have a Facebook page and we will be utilizing Instagram and X accounts more often this year. Our monthly newsletter will continue through our email blasts. We may also transition those communications to Constant Contacts format so be on the lookout for that.

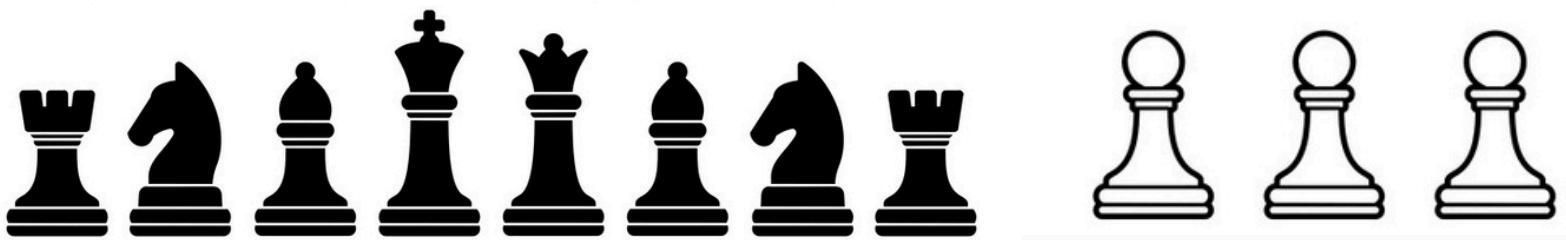
We expect to continue the annual events established including the Bienville Chess Classic in April, the Forest Chess Challenge tournament in August, and the Roosevelt Chess Classic in November. We also expect to have the 4th annual Randy Richardson Memorial Chess Camp in October as well as participate with the MCA with chess at the state fair.

We will also plan to have informational booths at the July 4 celebration at Roosevelt State Park and at the Wing Dang Doodle Festival in Forest in September. We also hope to make appearances at Morton Day in the Park and Lakefest if our schedule permits. There will also be another introduction to chess event spread across one day in May and one in June.

We have had other activities in the past that we were unable to do in 2025, but we hope to bring them back when the opportunity is available.

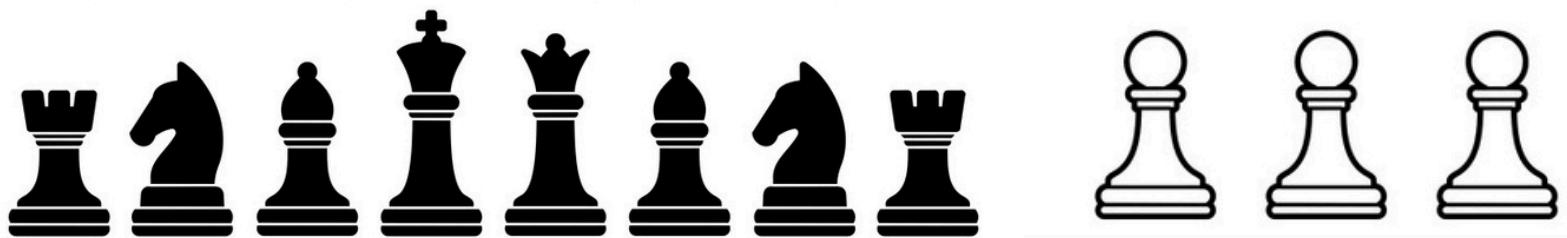
We will place a stronger focus in 2026 on developing more chess opportunities in the local schools and taking advantage of any new opportunities to grow chess in Scott County. We hope to see you come out and play chess with us in 2026!

Our #1
rule in
Chess is to
HAVE FUN!!



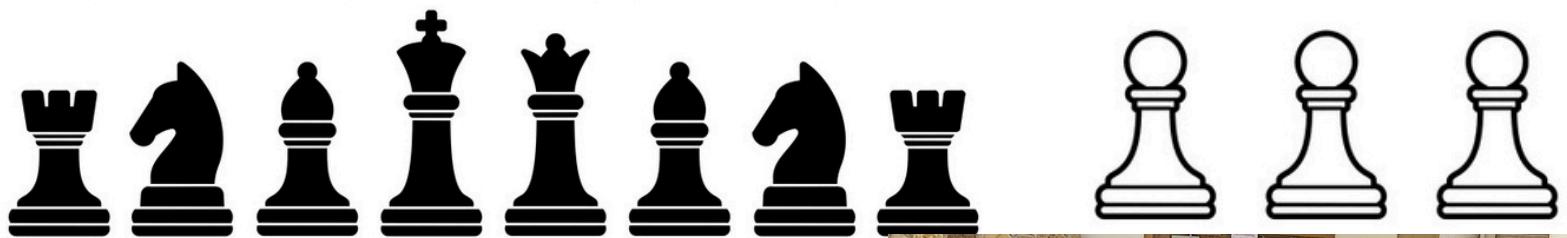
Scenes in Chess - 2025





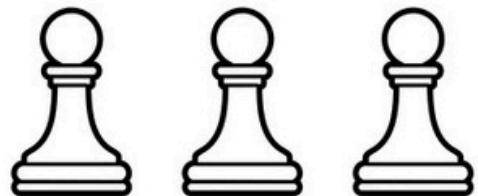
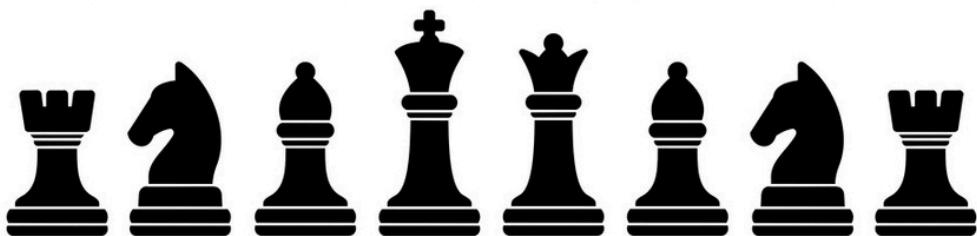
Scenes in Chess - 2025





Scenes in Chess - 2025





Chess Calendar

For more information about all listings:

see our website at scottcountychessclub.org

* **Scott County Chess Club** will hold a regular meeting

Saturday, January 10, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest

Everyone is welcome.

* **Capital City Chess Club New Year's Bash**

Saturday, January 3 - Food Court, Outlet Mall, Pearl

* **MS Individual Scholastic State Championship**

Saturday-Sunday, January 17-18 - St. Andrews school, Ridgeland

* **Ole Miss Scholastic Chess Tournament**

Saturday, January 24 - University of Mississippi, Oxford

* **North Mississippi Championship**

Saturday, January 24 - Fountain Square, Water Valley

* **Spotlight Pawns N Pajamas**

Friday, January 30 - Overpark Elementary School, Olive Branch

* **Capital City Chess Club**

Tuesdays, 5:30 until 8:30 p.m., Scholtzky's, Flowood

Club tournaments and league games will continue at the Food Court at the Outlets of Mississippi mall in Pearl.

* **NEW Chess Club in Madison County!!!**

Mondays, 6 until 8 p.m., Panera Bread at Renaissance, Madison

First meeting is on January 5.



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



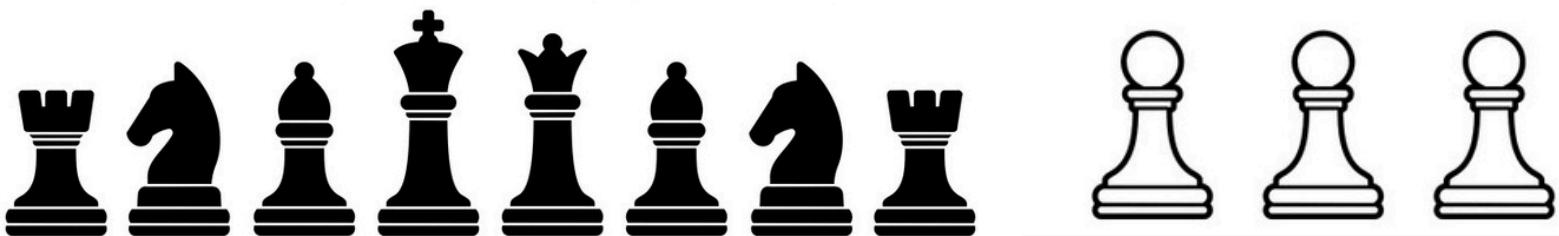
TOP TO BOTTOM CHESS:

* **Memphis Chess Club**

Weekly chess tournaments on Saturdays

* **Mississippi Coast Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's, Gulfport



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

5th annual Bienville Chess Classic

MORTON – The 4th annual **Bienville Chess Classic tournament** is set for **Saturday, April 18, 2026**, 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 Mississippi and we had players come from Louisiana and Florida. The player from Florida won the grand championship after driving 17 hours. In 2023, we attracted 45 players; 2024 Bienville tournament set a new record with 58 players; last year we had 38 players. This brought our Bienville overall total to 173 players - returning and first timers. Our combined turnout for all 11 tournaments held (including Roosevelt Chess Classic in the fall and Forest Chess Challenge in August) is now 507 players.

Recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our tournaments possible. 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.

2026 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+3

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 and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

RATED - U800 (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

RATED - U400 (Trophy and \$50 for 1st; medals for 2nd and 3rd)

REGISTRATION

\$35 early bird entry fee through Saturday, April 11

*(at midnight April 12, **\$40 regular rate**)*

*(6 p.m. April 17 and thereafter, **\$45 late and on-site**)*

To Register Online: Visit [kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2026 \(preferred\)](http://kingregistration.com/event/Bienville2026)

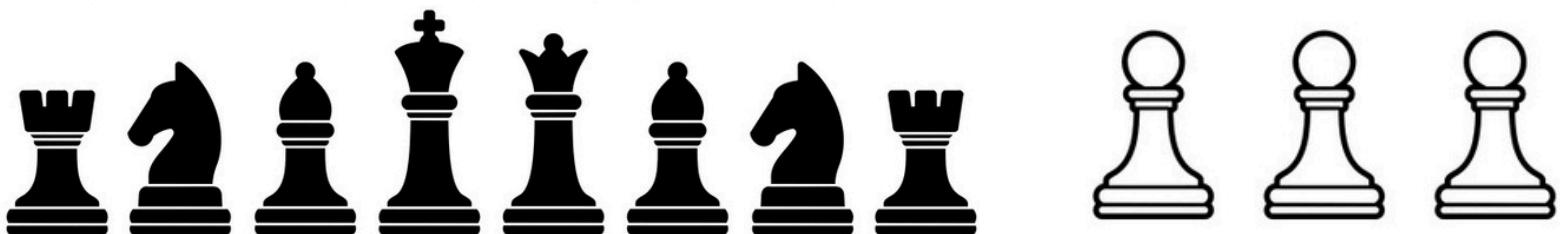
*This method allows immediate registration using **PayPal, Venmo**, and other credit card options.*

To Register via email: Send information to 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 at this time.*



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.

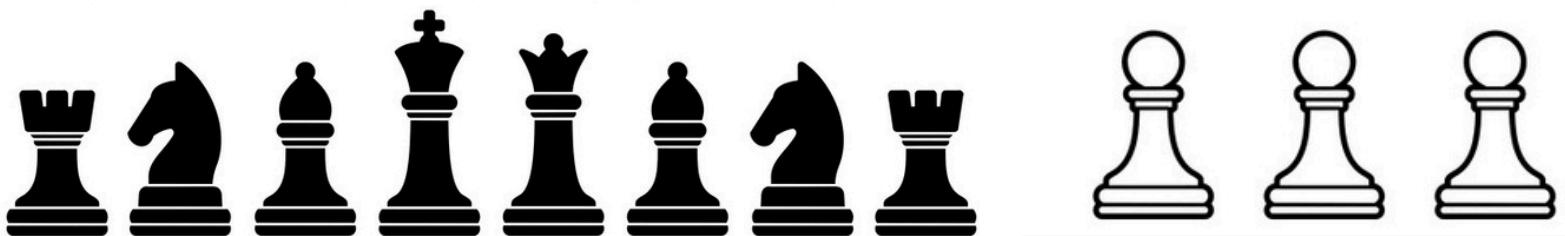
Important Tournament Notes

Roosevelt State Park's daily admission fee is waived for those attending our tournament. *Players should tell the gate officer they are here for the tournament.*

- Registered players will receive a pre-event email on Wednesday or Thursday prior to tournament including important last minute details.
- Everyone is encouraged to bring chairs for lounging between rounds, lobby seating is limited; an outdoor patio is available.
- Concession food options will be available on site. Cash and electronic payments (CashApp) accepted
- Skittles rooms will be available.
- If possible, please submit any requests for change of section by 6 p.m. Friday, April 17.

More information is available on our website scottcountychessclub.org

Send questions or requests via email to scottcountychessclub@gmail.com



Find Us On Social Media and the World Wide Web



@scottcountychessclub

@scott_chess



scottcountychess

Sign up for **GroupMe** for instant texts,
send request and other questions to: scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

scottcountychessclub.org