

VOL. 5 ISSUE 10 · OCTOBER 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 **October 3** 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

Scott County Chess Club Est. 2018

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Chess Celebration

National Chess Day

October 10, 2026

In 1976, President Gerald Ford declared October 9 as National Chess Day.

He considered chess a kings' game and was an avid follower.

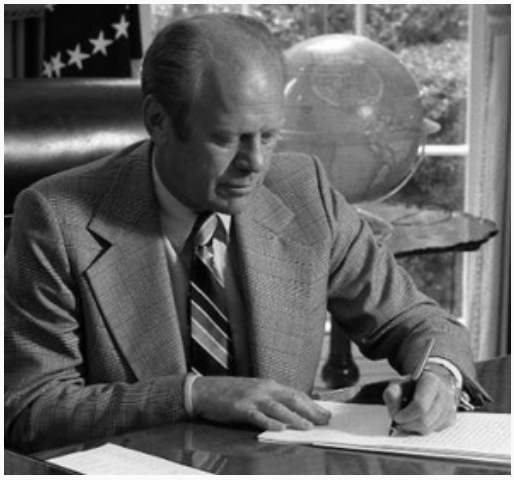
This annual observance has taken place **on the second Saturday of October** since 1979, with millions of beginners and experts delving into the unique world of chess.



From President Gerald R. Ford:

"I welcome this opportunity to greet America's chess players and to give special recognition to a game that generates challenge, intellectual stimulation, and enjoyment for citizens of all ages.

"This national observance focuses on the champions who have mastered the intricate skills of this exciting game as well as the countless fans who find it a constructive way to spend their leisure hours.



"For both professionals and amateurs, chess is a game that sharpens the mind, tests human faculties, and encourages healthy competition. It has captivated the attention of players and spectators worldwide and will continue to do so as long as competition and excellence challenges mankind."

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



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; set a new record in 2024 with 75 players and 50 players last year. Our combined turnout for all tournaments is now 540 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 are now final.

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, Group Camp Meeting Room, 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. 25. **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, November 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.

Important Tournament Notes

Due to renovations to the Lodge, our tournament will move to the Group Camp Meeting Room on the other side of the lake. Signs will point the way.

- 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, there is no lobby; an outdoor patio is available.
- Concession food options will be available on site. Cash and electronic payments (CashApp) accepted
- 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







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.'