

VOL. 1 ISSUE 3 · APRIL 2022

CHESS JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of the Scott County Chess Club

Come join us on first Saturdays!

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

The next meetings will be held in Forest on **April 2** at two locations: **Forest Public Library** - 9 to 11 a.m. (210 S. Raleigh St.)

Foothills - 1 to 3 p.m. (1039 Highway 35 (southbound side))

Everyone at every skill level - beginner and up is welcome to attend either or both meetings!



Players may bring their own chess set and board if they have one. We will have boards and sets to use.



This issue:

Highlights

PAGE 02-04

Chess and Scouts

PAGE 03

St. Louis Chess visit

PAGE 04

Calendar

PAGE 05

Bienville Chess Classic

PAGE 06-07

Tournament action

PAGE 08-09

US Chess Federation

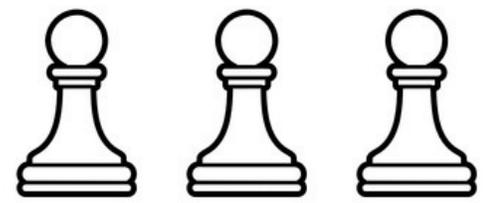
PAGE 10

Find Us on Social Media

PAGE 11

Chess Scenes

PAGE 12



Chess News Highlights

Chess interest meeting planned in May

Our May gathering will include an extra feature in the form of an interest meeting for more people to learn about who we are. This is the same kind of meeting we held in 2018 when we were first organizing the club. It is a means to recruit more people who may be interested in joining.

The meeting will be held at the Forest Public Library on May 7 at 9 a.m. in the community meeting room. We will provide information about chess and the club for persons who are new to the game and those who have experience and are interested in participating. Tell your friends to come check it out. If you missed the original meetings, this is a good way to find out more about our operations.

Tournament season is still in full swing

Numerous new clubs are forming around the state and existing clubs are hosting tournaments like we are. There were several in March and more are planned in May. The game is growing in Mississippi.

St. Augustine in Ridgeland saw a huge turnout in the 90s range and offered an expanded tournament to include rated games for youth and adults.

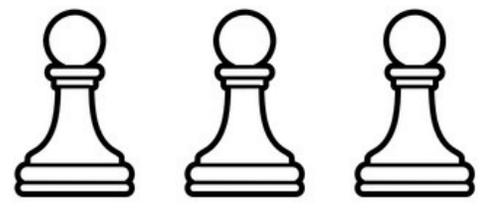
While chess was once a male-dominated game, we are seeing continued growth in girls and women participating. The recent state championship for girls in chess held a tournament in Oxford and was very successful. This further proves that chess is for everyone!!

Vicksburg Chess Club had a tournament in March and is planning to do another one in May.

And YES! Scott County is part of that tournament excitement. We will be hosting another tournament of our own in May. Keep reading in this newsletter for more details about the **Bienville Chess Classic**. We opened registration on March 1 and already have registrations coming in.

'In chess,
there are no
losers.
Either you
win or you
learn ...
sometimes
both.'





Chess News Highlights

Boy Scouts include chess in their programs

The Boy Scouts of America have embraced how special the game of chess is and offer chess as a merit badge. The St. Louis Chess Club first introduced the Chess Merit Badge in 2011. Since then, it has become one of the most popular badges in the Scouts BSA merit badge catalog, with over 250,000 scouts earning their Chess Merit badge.

The St. Louis Chess Club designed workshops provide a dynamic program of learning and adventure that builds critical thinking, forward thinking, and proper sportsmanship in young people.



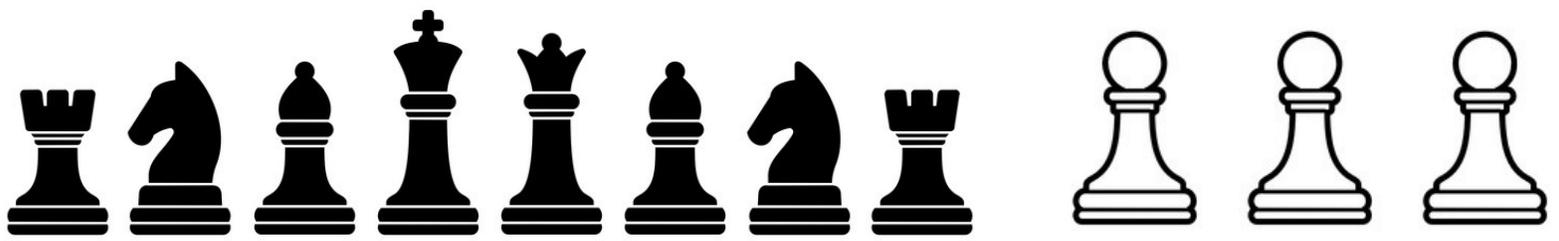
Scouts do not have to go to St. Louis, however, to earn the chess merit badge. Worksheets are available online for Scouts all over the nation to download and complete the requirements right at home within their own troops. In Forest, Troop 63 already has several Scouts who have earned the chess merit badge.

The Scott County Chess Club wants to do its part in helping any scouts to earn their chess merit badge. Our member, Aaron Baker, demonstrated chess to Troop 63 as part of earning his first merit badge. We will host a badge clinic in the next couple months depending on scheduling.



'Life is full of important choices.'





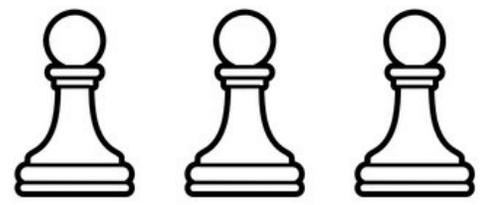
Chess News Highlights

If you're ever in St. Louis - Chess will welcome you fondly with opportunities

St. Louis, Missouri, is considered the chess capital of the United States as it is home to the World Chess Hall of Fame. Just outside its doors, the Hall of Fame also displays the world's tallest chess piece according to Guinness Book of World Records. Inside, there are exhibits through the year featuring many aspects of the game. Just across the street, the St. Louis Chess Club is home to plenty of chess activities from daily games to regular tournaments, classes, and internet streaming services.

Additionally, it was announced earlier this year that the U.S. Chess Federation will be moving its headquarters to St. Louis to further increase the game's influence in the city. St. Louis also boasts a number of public parks where chess board tables are available for playing. Chess celebrities come there often including grandmasters and international masters. This is why it is considered the "chess mecca" of our game. Three of our members recently visited the city to see these wonderful sites.





Chess Calendar

* **Southern Miss Chess Tournament**

April 9 - R.C. Cook University Union - Room B, Hattiesburg

Entry fee - \$15 - Deadline April 7, also onsite registration

For more information, send email to scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

* **Bienville Chess Classic (sponsored by Scott County Chess)**

May 14 - Roosevelt State Park, Morton

Entry fee - \$30 - Deadline to register: March 7

See pages 6-7 for more information

* **Red Carpet City Open**

May 21 - 1918 Washington St., Vicksburg

Entry fee - \$30 - Early or onsite

For more information, send email to scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

* **BLITZ tournaments**

2nd and 4th Mondays - Dogmud Tavern, Ridgeland

Entry fee - \$10 - Check in 5:30, games start at 6 p.m.

5 minute games

* **Capital City Chess Club**

Tuesdays- Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl

Free - casual play - 5:30 until 8 p.m.

* **Vicksburg Chess Club**

Thursdays- Newk's Eatery, Vicksburg

Free - casual play - 6 until 8 p.m.

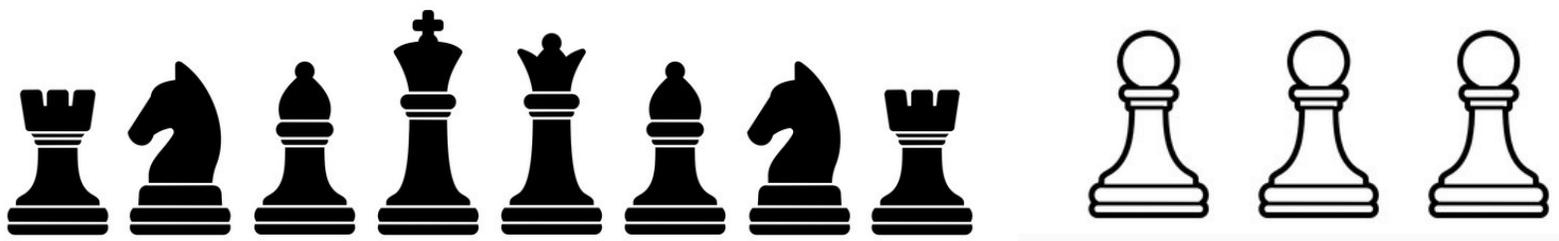
* **Roosevelt Chess Classic (sponsored by Scott County Chess)**

Nov. 5 - Roosevelt State Park, Morton

More details to come

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





Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

Bienville Chess Classic

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Roosevelt State Park, Alfreda-Harris Lodge

2149 MS Highway 13, Morton

(For those outside Scott County, Take Exit 77 off I-20)

4 rounds – Swiss System (*no elimination*) – Game control: 45 minutes with 5 second increments
(*active U.S. Chess Federation membership ID# and notation is required for the 3 rated sections*)

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

U1000 (*Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd*)

U500 (*Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd*)

****** To join the U.S. Chess Federation, visit new.uschess.org

Not Rated (*Trophy for 1st and medals for 2nd and 3rd*)

**U.S. Chess Federation membership is NOT required for this section only.*

This section is designed for players to ease into tournament play for first time.

Notation is strongly encouraged.

Registration is open now. We already have received some early registrations!!

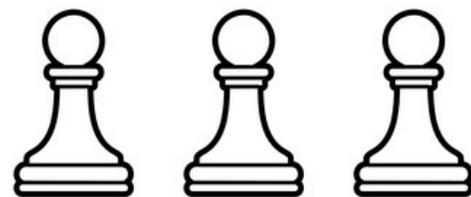
Early Bird rate: \$30 per player through Saturday, May 7

Players' registration received after midnight: \$40 individuals

To Register: Players must provide their **NAME**, **Chess Federation ID#** (*if playing in the rated sections*), desired **SECTION**, and desired **METHOD of PAYMENT** to the following email address:

scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

An email response will be sent in return within 24-48 hours after first contact. Directions for making payment arrangements will be included. The following electronic methods are preferred: Paypal, Venmo, Cash App - although payment will be accepted on site. If initial contact email is sent as directed before deadline, the early bird rate can be applied.



Bienville Chess Classic - continued

On the day of the Tournament

Concessions will be provided by Boy Scout Troop 63 of Forest

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

Welcome and Briefing of Rules - 9:15

Round 1 - 9:30 a.m.

Round 2 - 11:30 a.m.

Round 3 - 1:30 p.m.

Round 4 - 3:30 p.m.

Awards - To be presented after final round

*Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0 for all

*Requested byes = 0.5 for all

(No requested byes in Round 4; please make requests before start of desired round)

*Tiebreaker information will be provided at the tournament.

Players and accompanying family/coaches are encouraged to bring chairs for lounging.

An outdoor patio will be available.

*A skittles room will be available.

*Masks will be recommended and available as well as sanitizer.

Historical note: This tournament is named in recognition of the Bienville National Forest which includes most of Scott County including the tournament site. In turn, the forest is named for Jean Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, a French colonial administrator in New France and was an early governor of French Louisiana.



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.

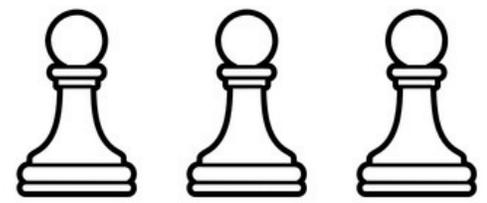
Some players enjoy just playing in a random tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow. Other players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning master, grandmaster status within 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. 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 usually 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 also include team play where individual players' scores are combined and calculated for overall scores. Prizes may include cash, trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons, and certificates.

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





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.

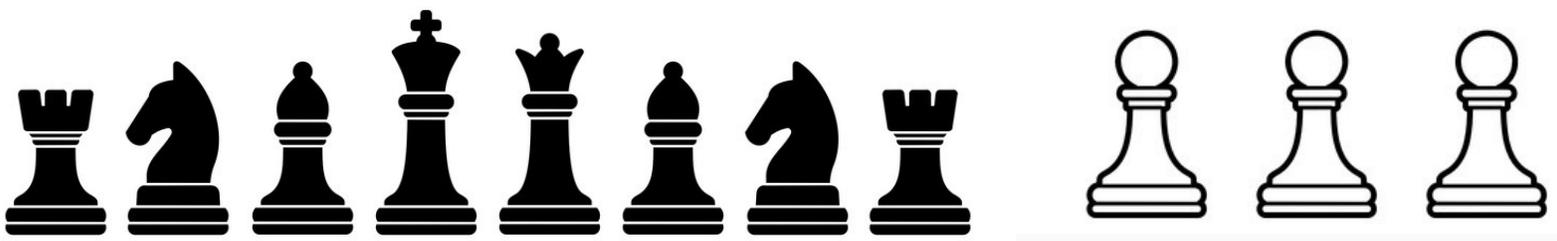
The clock simply keeps games from lasting forever and allows tournaments to run smoothly on schedule. It also teaches players the value of making decisions in a reasonable amount of time. While some traditional settings may use analog clocks for nostalgia purposes, most clocks using in modern tournaments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

Notation is a means of players writing down their moves and those of their opponents 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.

Even more valuable, 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.

'Life is full of important choices.'





U.S. Chess Federation

The U.S. Chess Federation 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 2022 Goals

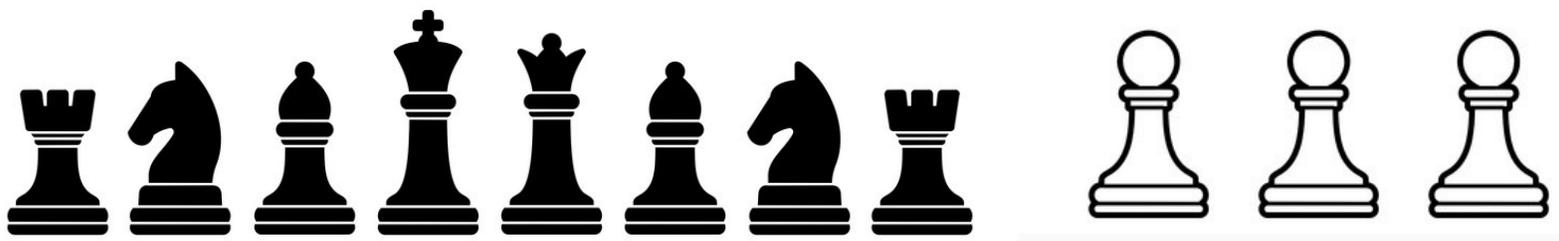
- Expand the educational, social, recreational and rehabilitative applications of chess.
- Increase the visibility of chess on mainstream communications channels.
- Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships.
- Use chess to increase opportunities for under-represented segments of society.
- Continuously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

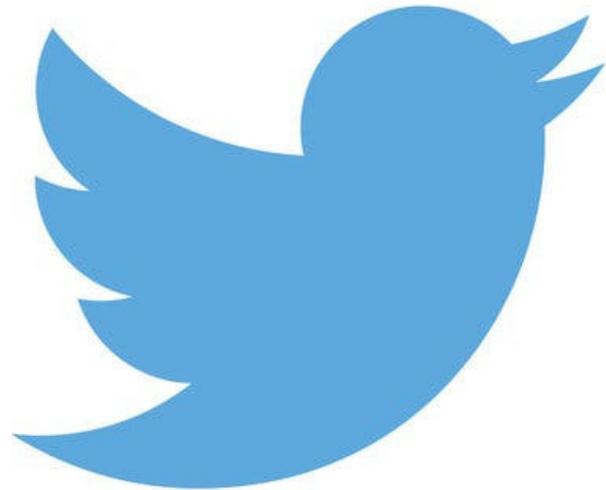


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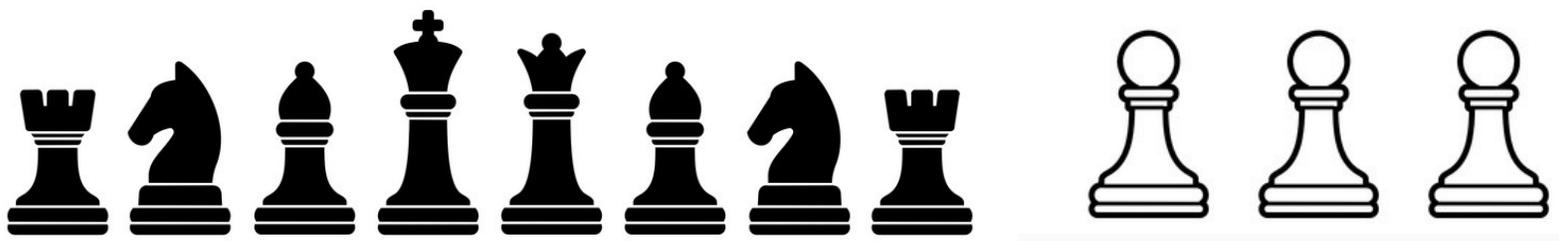


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Sign up for **GroupMe** for instant texts,
send request and other questions to:
scottcountychessclub@gmail.com



The #1 rule in chess - HAVE FUN!

Chess Scenes in Scott County

