



VOL. 3 ISSUE 7 · AUGUST 2024

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 August 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

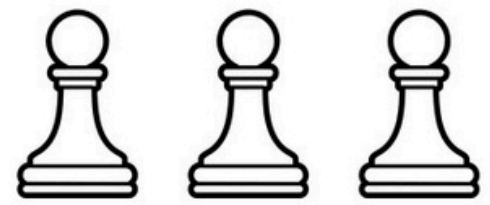
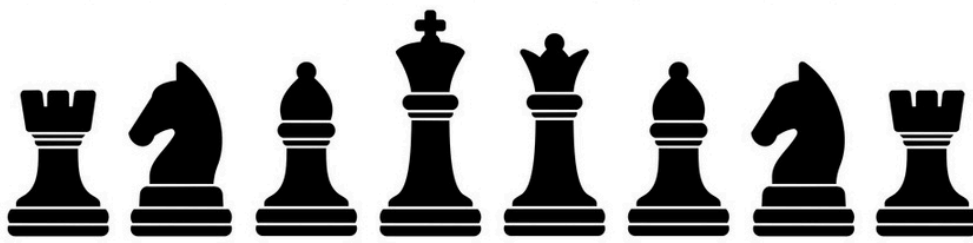


@scott_chess



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Chess News Highlights

Johnson makes club history First tournament title victory

The Scott County Chess Club had one of its members participate in a recent chess tournament and returned with a division championship, marking the first time a club member has won a title since our founding.

Malcolm Johnson, who regularly commutes to Forest from Newton for our meetings, participated in the J'Kennethon Memorial Chess Tournament on July 13 at the Food Court in the Outlet Mall of Mississippi in Pearl. Johnson won first place in the Under 600 rating section. Johnson scored three points in the three round section to take the top prize.

Johnson began attending the Scott County Chess Club in 2023 and assisted with the Randy Richardson Memorial Chess Camp in October.

The annual tournament is held in memory of J'Kennethon Smith of the Jackson area who died on July 9, 2022, after being struck by a vehicle protecting a female cousin by pushing her out of harm's way. "Ken" was a top academic student, multi-sport athlete, farmer, and a Chess player. He taught chess to younger children. Proceeds from the tournament are contributed to the development of chess activities in the Jackson area.

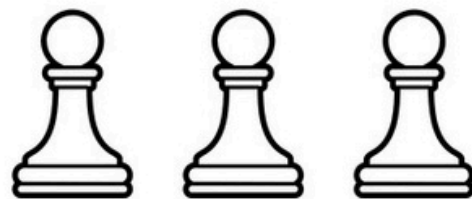


Sponsors

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



Highlights in Chess

Baker earns TD re-certification

SC Chess Club founder and coordinator Chris Allen Baker received a renewal and new three-year term on July 21 as a club level tournament director (TD).

The renewal came with the requirement of having to pass an exam testing his knowledge of the game and rules of the U.S. Chess Federation (USCF).

Baker can continue directing tournaments and he can assist in other tournaments in the state.



'Life
is full
of
important
choices.'

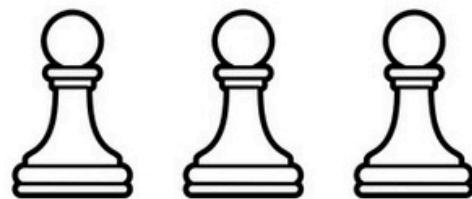
Initially on a new license, the USCF allows a three-year term to gain experience and pledge knowledge of the rules. The test is not required on the front end, but passage of a certification exam is required before renewal. A person must meet required amount of experience directing tournaments during their term and have an eligible record to apply for the exam.

The USCF sends a 50-question exam and the participant has two months to complete and return it. The exam is open-book meaning the participant looks the topics of the questions up in the rules book and other resources. Participants have to score at least 70 percent to pass which means no more than 15 questions can be answered incorrectly. A person who fails can retake the exam in two months. After a second failure, a six month wait is required. If pass, person is good for another three year term.

If a person scores 80 percent or better in getting no more than 10 questions wrong, they are automatically upgraded to Local Level TD. This basically means they can officiate larger tournaments and have four year terms between renewals.

Anyone who takes a recertification exam is honor bound not to ask for help or share the contents of the test with anyone. A person can keep their test for studying. USCF advises what questions a person answered incorrectly, but the right answers are not revealed. "Even though it is open book, it is very difficult and challenging because of the way the questions are phrased to test a person's knowledge of the game," Baker said. "I scored 78 percent so I was one question away from getting an upgrade to Local TD status. Plan to take the test again to hopefully earn the promotion."

Baker became a Club Level TD in January 2022 so the club could hold its own tournaments. He has since directed six tournaments in Scott County and assisted in numerous other tournaments around the state with the Mississippi Chess Association (MCA) and other clubs.



Highlights in Chess

Great turnout at Roosevelt State Park for chess during July 4 celebrations

The Scott County Chess Club had a display on July 4 at Roosevelt State Park as part of the day's many activities by the Friends of Roosevelt group.

This was the first time for the club to have a display at this event and it was a resounding success in the amount of attention we received. In addition to obtaining information about the club, visitors had the opportunity to play chess on site. Youth and young adults battled over the chess board throughout the day and into the evening and attracted a small crowd of spectators at times.

Skill levels of participants ranged from very beginner to relatively experienced. Some players were first time game participants and received lessons through the day, while growing in their abilities. By the end of the evening's activities, the new players showed significant improvement.

The final two players started a game around 7 p.m. and kept playing well after dark when the only light available was moonlight before one of them won with a checkmate sometime after 8:30.

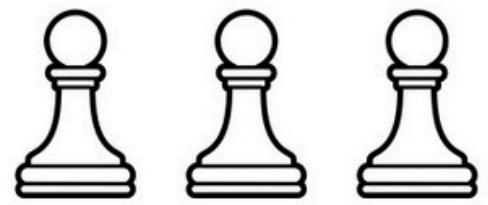
"It was a fun day for chess in Scott County and I was excited to see so many people engaged in the game. I appreciate the Friends of Roosevelt group for letting us have a presence at the event to provide this opportunity," said Chris Allen Baker, coordinator of the sponsoring chess club. "The age ranges of the day's participants showed that anyone can learn the game, improve their skills with just making the initial effort, and it is never too late to learn."

Photos of the day can be found on the next page.

The club's next festival appearance will be the Wing Dang Doodle at Gaddis Park in Forest on September 28.

'Life
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of
important
choices.'





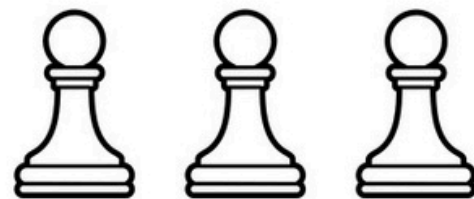
Highlights in Chess at Roosevelt Park



Kids and young adults visited throughout the day. In the three photos immediately above and to the right, two players battled for more than an hour into the darkness.

'Life
is full
of
important
choices.'





Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

Forest Chess Challenge

The Scott County Chess Club will add a new tournament in August joining its events lineup with a unique feature unlike its other existing tournaments.

The Forest Chess Challenge will be held Saturday, August 17, at Penn's restaurant near Interstate 20 in Forest. The tournament will begin with first round at 10:30 a.m. and run all day.

This tournament will be different than our existing **Bienville Chess Classic** and **Roosevelt Chess Classic** held annually at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. The **Forest Chess Challenge** will feature Quick and Blitz chess games whereas the time controls for each game are much shorter than the regular games.

The general details are below, but all the specific details are posted on our website as well as King Registration.com, U.S. Chess Federation, and our Facebook page. Announcements will also be posted on the Mississippi Chess Association website.

ACTIVE U.S. Chess Federation membership ID# is REQUIRED for all games

ALL RATED SECTIONS - Open and U1000

Swiss System; Notation is not required.

Quick - 5 rounds - G/15+3

Blitz - 6 rounds - G/5+3

Prizes

Cash Prizes will be awarded to first (\$75) and second (\$50) place finishes in each section

Registration Entry Fees and Deadlines

Before 6 p.m. August 10 - Quick ONLY: \$20; Blitz ONLY: \$20; Both: \$25

6 p.m. August 10 and Thereafter - Quick ONLY: \$30; Blitz ONLY: \$30; Both: \$35

No new registrations accepted after 10 a.m., August 17 for Quick & Blitz; 1 p.m. for Blitz only

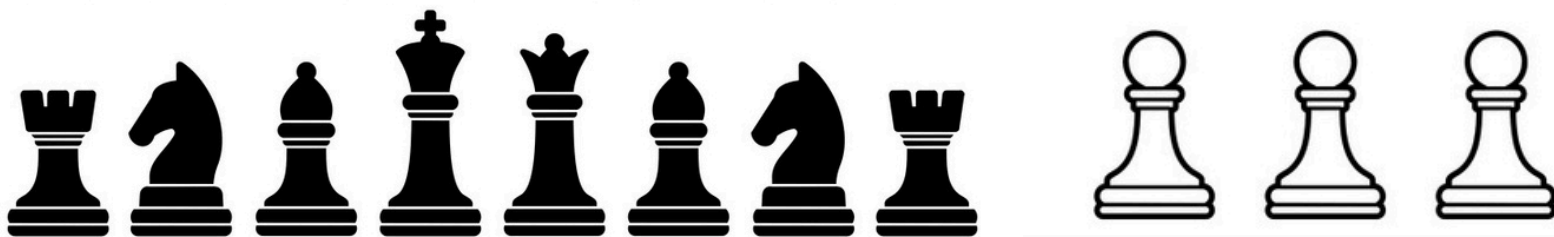
REGISTER ONLINE - at Kingregistration.com

- Lunch and other meals will be available through hosting restaurant; players may order off menu (except buffet). Party packs for meal are available with advance notice by August 15. Contact tournament director for more information.

More information is available on our website scottcountychessclub.org

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

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



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournament

4th annual Roosevelt Chess Classic

MORTON – The 4th annual **Roosevelt Chess Classic tournament** is set for **Saturday, November 9, 2024**, 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. Last year's tournament attracted 59 players. Our combined turnout for the three Roosevelt Classic events and the spring Bienville event is now 309 players, including those returning and new players.

Registration is open! We are blessed to join forces with King Registration in offering an efficient and easy way to register for all of our events online.

Before we go any further, recognition goes to our past sponsors who generously donated funds to help make our first three 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+5

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

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.

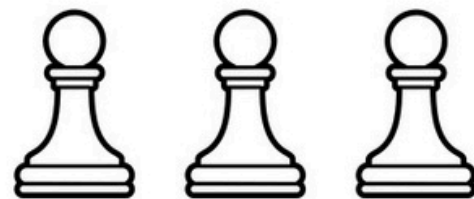
Each team player will compete in their respective section according to their rating, or play up.

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 teams are welcome as well as independent teams.

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



2024 Roosevelt Chess Classic - continued

REGISTRATION

Early Bird Discount: \$35 per player

*Discount expires at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. **Regular rate: \$40 per player begins***

*Late and Onsite Registration: **\$45 per player begins 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8***

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

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

Use coupon code TEAMROOSEVELT to receive \$2 discount per team member

All teams should be registered by noon, Friday, November 8;

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

*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)*

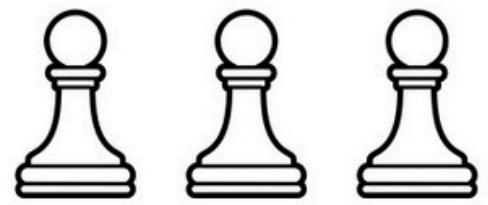
Byes due to inability to pair = 1.0

Requested byes = 0.5 (except Round 4; 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.



2024 Roosevelt Chess Classic - concluded

Important Tournament Notes

Roosevelt State Park enforces a daily admission fee for persons entering the park and this will apply to those attending our tournament. *Visitors will be given a hang tag to place on your rear view mirror. This will allow re-entry during the same day.*

The park admission fee is \$2 per person.

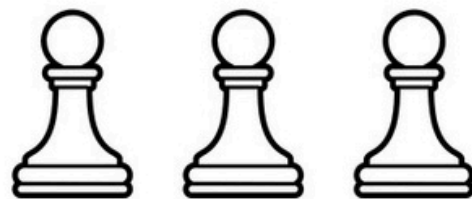
Children age 5 and under are allowed free.

- 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, 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, Nov. 8.

More information is available on our website scottcountychessclub.org

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





Chess Calendar

For more information about all listings:
see our website at scottcountychessclub.org

Editor's Note: There are more events in the planning stages that have not been announced. They will be added to future editions of this calendar when they are announced.

* **Scott County Chess Club** will hold a regular meeting
Saturday, August 3, 9-11 am, Public Library, Forest
This will be our regular meeting - everyone is welcome.

* **2nd Sunday Chess League**
Second Sunday, August 11, 2 p.m. - Food Court, Outlets of Mississippi, Pearl

* **Forest Chess Challenge (Quick and Blitz)**
Saturday, August 17 - Penn's, Forest (**Scott County Chess Club** hosting)

* **Mississippi Women's State Championship**
Saturday, September 14 - Nissan Training Center, Canton

* **Scholastic Central Jamboree**
Saturday, September 28 - Jackson Prep, Flowood

* **Mississippi State Championship**
Saturday-Sunday, October 19-20 - CSpire Headquarters, Ridgeland

* **Roosevelt Chess Classic** - Scott County Chess Club hosting
Saturday, November 9 - Roosevelt State Park, Morton

* **Capital City Chess Club** - NEW LOCATION ANNOUNCED!
Tuesdays from 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.

'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



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.

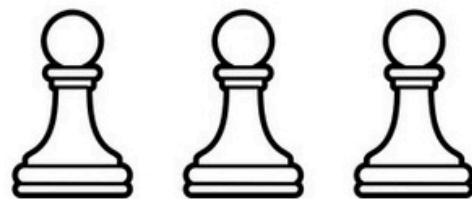
Some players enjoy just playing in a random tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow. Other players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning master, grandmaster status within 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.

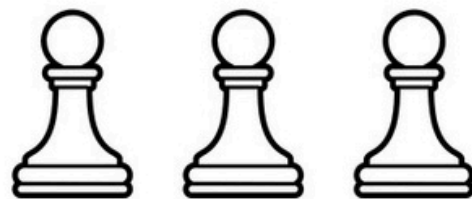
See calendar on page 7 and our website for more information!

scottcountychessclub.org



**'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.

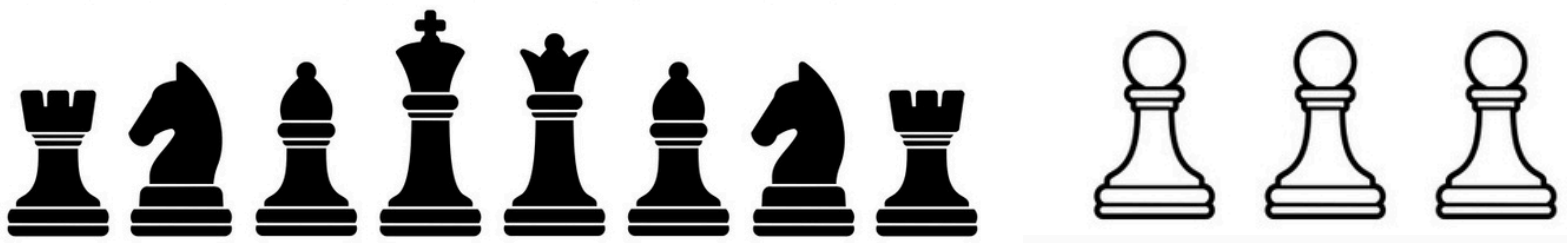
Notation is a means of players writing down their moves and those of their opponents using algebraic symbols and abbreviations. Notation allows players to keep track of their moves so if there is a question or dispute over the legality of a move during a tournament, a decision can be made by a tournament 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.'

Move	Player 1 White	Player 2 Black
1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bc4	Bc5
4	b4	Bxb4
5	c3	Ba5
6	d4	d6
7	Qb3	Qd7
8	O-O	Bb6
9	dxe5	Nxe5
10	Nxe5	dxe5
11	Rd1	Qe7
12	Ba3	Qf6
13	Bxf7+	Qxf7
14	Rd8+	Kxd8
15	Qxf7	Bd7
16	Qxg7	c6
17	Qxh8	Kc7
18	Qxe5+	Kd8
19	Bd6	Be8
20	Na3	Rc8
21	Rd1	Bd7
22	Qg5+	Ke8
23	Qxg8#	
Result	1	0



U.S. Chess Federation

The U.S. Chess Federation, now based in St. Louis, Missouri, 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 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.

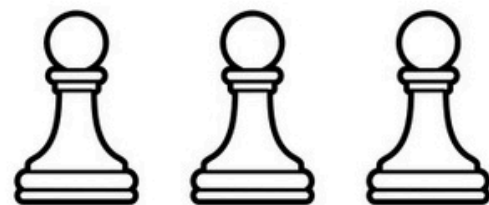
US Chess Core Values

- **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>

USCF Membership makes for a great Birthday gift!!



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.

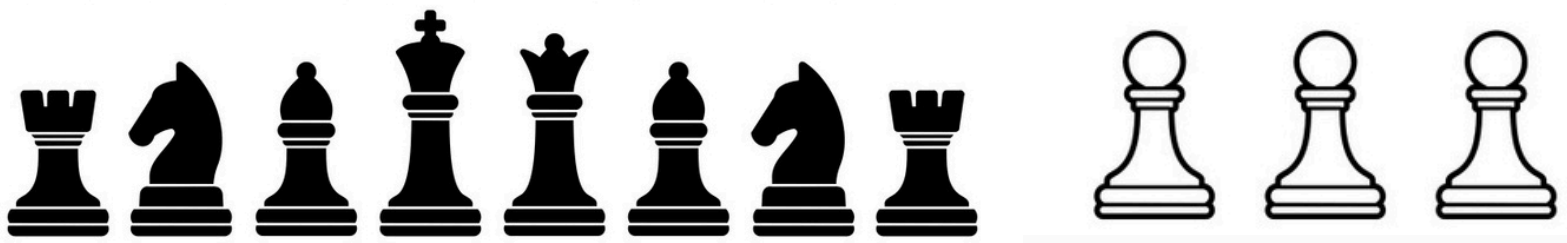
Most of all - Chess is FUN!

'Life is
full
of important
choices.'

'In chess,
there are no
losers.'

Either you
win or you
learn ...

sometimes
both.'

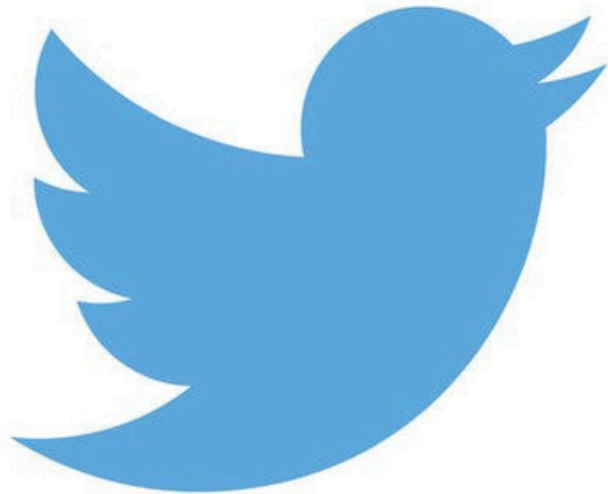


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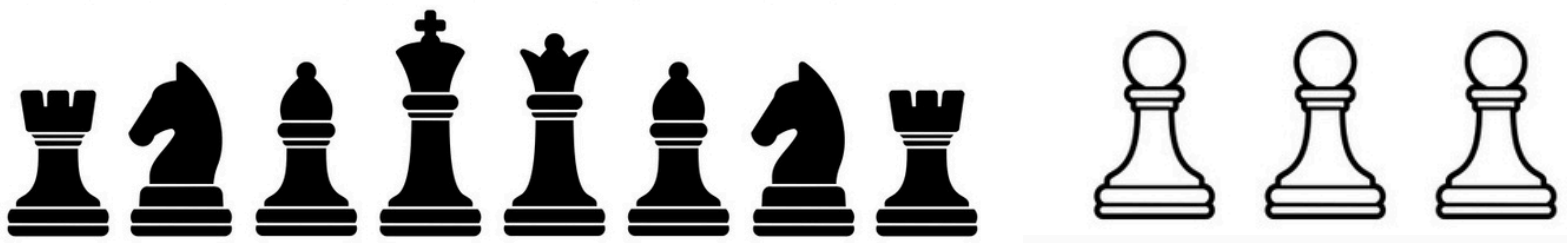
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Sign up for **GroupMe** for instant texts,
send request and other questions to: scottcountychessclub@gmail.com

scottcountychessclub.org



The #1 rule in chess - HAVE FUN!

Chess Scenes in Scott County

