



Chicago Chess Foundation

Giving every student in Chicago the opportunity to learn, play and compete in chess at low or no cost

Each year, the non-profit Chicago Chess Foundation (CCF) provides more than 1,000 children with the opportunity to learn and play competitive chess at low or no cost. Through a unique partnership with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), CCF provides chess sets, coaches and stipends to help schools start chess programs. Experienced teams can receive advanced coaching. CCF and its partners offer free K-8 scholastic tournaments and summer camps.

Why chess?

Chess has the unique ability to simultaneously rivet children's attention and teach important life skills.

Forty years of research has shown that chess dramatically improves:

- **test scores**
- **academic performance**
- **creativity**
- **concentration**
- **decision-making**
- **problem-solving**
- **social skills**



"Since she started playing chess, my daughter's confidence has soared. We are grateful to her school's chess coach and the CCF for giving her the incredible gift of chess."

Joy R., a CPS Parent



The "Second City" Should Be Second to None!

While Chicago Public Schools has made great strides in its chess programming, there's still a lot of room for growth:

- Today, **only 1,500 students** participate in afterschool chess in Chicago, compared with **23,000 in New York** and **4,000 in Philadelphia**. CCF hopes to double Chicago's number of student chess players within the next two years.
- **Only 10%** of Chicago's Title 1 schools have afterschool chess programs, compared with **59-100% in other major cities**. CCF will prioritize low-income schools to ensure opportunity for underserved populations.
- **Chicago schools are virtually absent** from state and national chess competitions, causing the *New York Times* to observe in 2013: *"It is unusual for a city as large as Chicago to have only one school enter a tournament as prestigious as the National Championships."* CCF will increase Chicago's presence at national and state competitions by 50% in its first year.

“Our complex world needs creative, patient and persistent problem-solvers. By exposing children to the game of chess, we are helping them develop the skills they need to make our world a better place.”

*Ted Oppenheimer,
Oppenheimer Family Foundation*



“I already knew how to play chess, but the CCF summer camp really helped me improve my game and meet friends from all over the city!”

Jack, CPS student



CCF board and volunteers include chess coaches, program directors, parents, administrators, and civic and business leaders who believe in the power of chess to change lives. The average low-income percentage of the schools served by CCF is 88.9%.

Everyone wins when kids play chess!

Learn more, volunteer or donate today at www.chicagolandchess.org.

What has CCF accomplished since its launch in 2015?

- Co-hosted **10 tournaments** for nearly **1,400 students** with Youth Chess Foundation of Chicago
- Helped start new chess programs at **12 Chicago schools and a public library** through its “Rook, Rattle and Roll” program
- Offered **5 summer day camps** with tiered coaching for 200 children
- Offered advanced coaching through its “Pawns to Kings” program to strengthen existing teams at **6 Chicago schools**
- Offered a **Fellows Program** that places strong high school players in K-8 clubs as helpers and assistants
- Created an **online marketplace** for coaches to help locate high-quality instruction



Every dollar counts!

- **\$100** provides 5 US Chess memberships
- **\$250** provides 3 hours of **advanced coaching** for an experienced school team
- **\$500** provides 30 tournament **trophies**
- **\$1,000** provides 1 elementary school **grant**
- **\$3,000** provides 2 high school **tournaments**
- **\$5,000** provides 5 summer **camps**
- **\$10,000** provides funding to bring 10 teams to **state championships**
- **\$25,000** provides **part-time staff**
- **\$100,000** funds **programming** for 1 year

***CCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
Your contribution is tax-deductible
to the extent allowed by law.***