



41th Annual Library Chess Competition



Please complete this form and send to Pittsburgh Chess Club Scholastic Director Jerry Meyers.

Either email to catnipper99@yahoo.com or mail to Jerry Meyers, 4101 Windsor St, Pgh, PA 15217

I suggest you also email your information to Colleen Miles - milesc@einetwork.net

Library name _____

Contact person _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Tournament date: _____ Start time: _____

If you have a judge, please list:

Judge's name _____ Phone/Email _____

If you don't have a judge and need one, please check here: _____

Any comments _____

General Info for Library Tournaments

1) The Library tournament season runs from early January to mid-March, followed by a Finals tournament in late March. The exact date and location for this year's final has not yet been determined. Qualifiers will receive an invitation letter from me after I have received the full results from your library.

2) At each participating library, there should be a Grade K - 4 division and a Grade 5 - 8 division. The first place winner from each division will receive a letter from us inviting them to the Finals competition. The second place winner is only invited to the Finals if the first place winner cannot attend. If you don't have enough entries in one division, you can cancel that division.

3) It is best if the tournaments are evenly spread out across the January - March time period. For some reason, in recent years, a lot of the tournaments have been bunched together in February. This makes it difficult to staff all the tournaments, since judges can only be in 1 library at a time. Librarians are encouraged to start scheduling in January. Based on past experience, January is a popular month for chess.

4) **When choosing a date for your tournament, it is a wise idea to start by contacting your judge from previous years and suggest several possible dates.** I have heard judges tell me, "I wish they would have contacted me first". This may not always help, but in many cases it will avoid conflicts.

5) If you cannot find a judge, we will find you one. It may take awhile, because the judges are volunteers, but we will get you somebody.

6) When picking a date, if possible you may wish to try avoiding conflicts with other scholastic tournaments being run by the Pittsburgh Chess Club. You can find our scholastic tournament schedule online at www.youthchess.net. A schedule of the library tournaments will be posted at this same link when it is completed.

It is not impossible to schedule your tournament on the dates of Pittsburgh Chess Club tournaments. However, your turnout may be lower if you schedule on the same day as a big event. Also, some of the judges help out with these tournaments, so they may not be available.

7) When children register for the tournament, please make sure they fill out the registration card completely, read the rules, and sign it. It is especially important for them to be aware of the rule that they are only allowed to compete in one library per year. I realize some libraries take registrations on the phone. If you are one of those libraries, then you should get all the information when you speak with them, fill out the registration card completely yourself, and please read them the one sentence rule listed on the card. **Copies of the registration forms are online here: www.youthchess.net/5-8.pdf and www.youthchess.net/k-4.pdf.**

8) It is not a bad idea to call all the entrants a few days before your tournament to remind them about it. Kids, and parents sometimes forget. For that matter, it does not hurt to give your judge a reminder call.

9) The winners of all library tournaments and Finals since 1996 are listed online here:
<http://www.youthchess.net/library.htm>

10) Libraries need to supply their own trophies. You may use any shop of your liking. I recommend Trophy Town (412) 371-5024 or Crown Trophies - www.crowntrophy.com Typically, libraries give trophies to the top 2 players in each division and a certificate to all participants.

Library Chess Tournament Promotional Ideas

1) Create a display in the library - setup a chessboard that can be used by visitors - post chess tournament information nearby - if possible, display the chess trophies nearby.

2) Create a chess poster and display it prominently - poster could have pictures of some children playing chess and tournament information or chess art from the Internet or drawing of chess by children.

3) Considering distributing some flyers to local schools or community centers.

4) Display some books or computer programs on chess. You may want to considering updating your collection. Popular beginning chess programs for children include Dinosaur Chess or the Fritz and Chesster series. Some popular children's chess books include Chess for Children by Murray Chandler, How to Beat Your Dad at Chess by Murray Chandler, Chess Tactics for Kids by Murray Chandler, Square One by Bruce Pandolfini, Chess for Kids by Michael Basman, and the ever popular, Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess by Stuart Margulies and Don Mosenfelder.

5) Have a showing of the video Searching for Bobby Fischer. Pass out tournament info.

6) Contact last year's participants and encourage them to play this year.