



Mississippi Children's Museum Hosts MS Scholastic Chess Association Tournament

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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On October 14th, the Mississippi Children's Museum hosted a Mississippi Scholastic Chess Association (MSCA) Tournament, the museum's second state-wide chess tournament of 2017. The tournament was open to players from Kindergarten to Twelfth grade.

This 1500-year-old game has seen a resurgence in Mississippi since as school and community chess programs have been created and revitalized. Over 130 parents and children attended the tournament. These tournaments are an important opportunity for children in Mississippi to exercise not only their skill but self-confidence. A growing body of research indicates that playing chess improves student's problem solving and critical thinking skills, which directly translates to their math, science and reading scores.

MCM President Susan Garrard notes about the museum's relationship with the game saying, "We were thrilled to host students and parents from all across the state in our museum for the MSCA tournament on Saturday. MCM has long viewed chess as a critical avenue for exposing Mississippi students to critical thinking in a fun and engaging way. We look forward to continuing to partner with MSCA in providing more opportunities for Mississippi children to experience the magic of chess!"

Chess has proven to provide a unique opportunity for those Mississippi students who have picked up the game. The ability to learn and play this ancient game of strategy has leveled the playing field for students from all backgrounds to compete. Thirteen grade level champions were named at this tournament. Meadville produced the largest body of winners, with seven students being named grade level champions. Three winners were from Madison, one was from Water Valley and two were from Jackson. A full list of winners is listed below.

Winners included:

Kindergarten, Peter Huang of Jackson
1st grade, Wyatt Kent of Meadville
2nd grade, Will Hutchins, of Meadville
3rd grade, Johnny Han of Madison
4th grade, Katie Temple of Meadville
5th grade, Ryan Wu of Madison
6th grade, Landon Tu of Madison
7th grade, Parker Wilkinson of Meadville
8th grade, James Ham of Meadville
9th grade, Matthew Dunn of Water Valley
10th grade, Joshua Griffin of Meadville
11th grade, Payne Bell of Jackson
12th grade, Daniel Youngblood of Meadville

About the Mississippi Children’s Museum

The Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides unparalleled experiences that ignite a thirst for discovery, knowledge, and learning in all children. MCM is dedicated to inspiring Mississippi’s children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. The museum features 40,000 square feet of exhibit space designed around five primary initiatives: Literacy, STEM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi History. The museum’s exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. To learn more about MCM visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org.

About the Mississippi Scholastic Chess Association

The MSCA is a Mississippi registered non-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Encouraging the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and for enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of our society.
- Supporting the development of local chess clubs and regional associations; informs, educates, and fosters the development of players and potential players.
- Promoting chess in Mississippi schools as a means of improving the problem-solving and critical thinking skills of our children.