

The Notator

Spring-Summer 2026

A publication of Wood Chess of Central Florida
 Editor: Mark M. Wood - National Chess Coach
 Vol 9 Issue 3 July 15, 2026

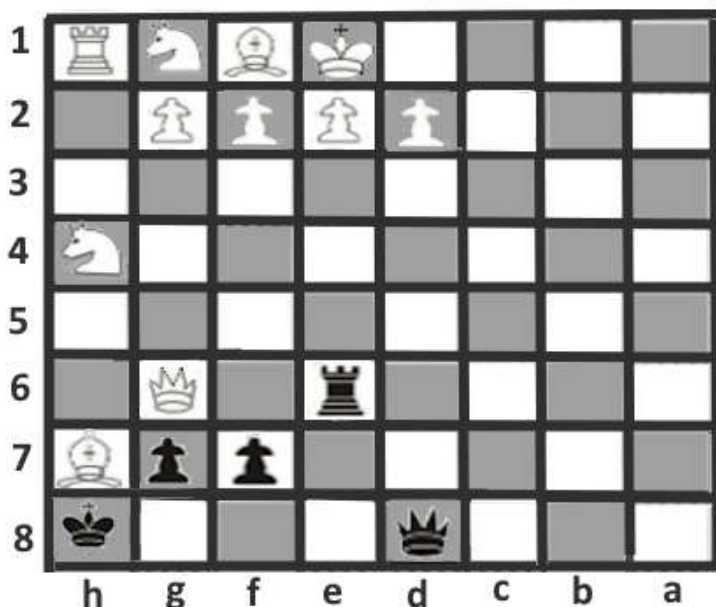


Camp Activities

We have had three successful camps this year. Each camp was sold out with sixteen campers. Students learned how to work in groups with our large chess game, they learned about Bughouse, and they had informal instruction about various chess concepts. Puzzles were introduced to encourage higher level thinking. Many prizes were given out during camp to encourage group participation.

Tricky Chess Moves

Colt recently had a game where it was set up so his opponent would take an easy queen and get checkmated on the next move.



Future Fall Activities at a Glance

DAY	ACTIVITIES	TYPE	LEVEL
MON 9:00	BOUNDLESS BRIDGES, PT ORANGE	HOME SCHOOL	INT
MON 2:45	LONGSTREET ELEM, DAYTONA BEACH	K-5 SCHOOL	BEG
TUES 3:15	IVY HAWN SCHOOL, LAKE HELEN	K-8 SCHOOL	ALL
WED 3:15	ST BARNABAS SCHOOL, DELAND	K-8 SCHOOL	ALL
THURS 2:45	G. MARKS ELEMENTARY, DELAND	K-5 SCHOOL	BEG
SAT 9:30	PT ORANGE CLUB AT GRACE EPISCOPAL	CLUB AGE 8-16	ALL

Coaches' Corner

Chess in the Proper Perspective



With young players going up, it is especially important to keep chess low key and have it as a fun activity. In participating in large tournaments, I see all too often that students play only for the purpose of winning. Parents have spent too much time going to tournaments instead of participating in activities designed for learning group cooperation and thinking. These students usually discontinue chess at an early age because it is not fun anymore.

At Wood Chess, we have tournaments that are designed as learning activities with modified rules to accommodate our goals. Great care is spent setting up sections with equal players because we know the students.

Larger state and national events stress winning and may not have sections that are set up to be fair. Without a coach, these tournaments can be detrimental to the students. Always check with Wood Chess when going to other events. Some may not be appropriate for our students.

Rule Check - Chess Policies

US Chess has increased their policy on student safety. In all club and tournament events, tobacco and alcohol consumption is not permitted. All adults working with students are now required to have a safe sport certification that renews yearly. All our activities will be in facilities that encourage these policies. All instructors are certified teachers with this training. We are working on having our clubs in schools and churches and are trying to avoid restaurants to keep expenses lower for the families



<https://uscenterforsafesport.org>

Future Dates

Tuesday September 8 = First Day of Ivy Hawn Class
 Wednesday-September 9 - First Day of St. Barnabas Class
 Thursday September 10- First Day of G. Marks Class in Deland
 Saturday Sept 12- Start of Saturday Club at Grace Episcopal
 Monday September 14 = First Day of Boundless Academy Class
 Monday, September 14 - First Day of Longstreet Elem Class