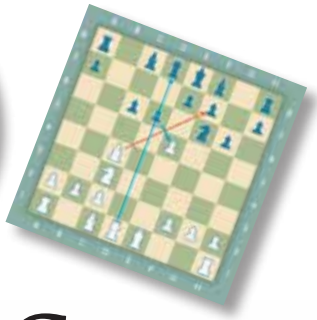
MERIT BADGE SERIES







CHESS



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CHESS



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Requirements

1. Discuss with your merit badge counselor the history of the game of chess. Explain why it is considered a game of planning and strategy.
2. Discuss with your merit badge counselor the following:
    a. The benefits of playing chess, including developing critical thinking skills, concentration skills, and decision-making skills, and how these skills can help you in other areas of your life
    b. Sportsmanship and chess etiquette
3. Demonstrate to your counselor that you know each of the following. Then, using Scouting's Teaching EDGE*, teach someone (preferably another Scout) who does not know how to play chess:
    a. The name of each chess piece
    b. How to set up a chessboard
    c. How each chess piece moves, including castling and en passant captures
4. Do the following:
    a. Demonstrate scorekeeping using the algebraic system of chess notation.
    b. Discuss the differences between the opening, the middle game, and the endgame.
    c. Explain four opening principles.
    d. Explain the four rules for castling.
    e. On a chessboard, demonstrate a "scholar's mate" and a "fool's mate."
    f. Demonstrate on a chessboard four ways a chess game can end in a draw.

*You may learn about Scouting's Teaching EDGE from your unit leader, another Scout, or by attending training.

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5. Do the following:
   a. Explain four of the following elements of chess strategy: exploiting weaknesses, force, king safety, pawn structure, space, tempo, time.
   b. Explain any five of these chess tactics: clearance sacrifice, decoy, discovered attack, double attack, fork, interposing, overloading, overprotecting, pin, remove the defender, skewer, zwischenzug.
   c. Set up a chessboard with the white king on *e1,* the white rooks on *a1* and *h1,* and the black king on *e5.* With White to move first, demonstrate how to force checkmate on the black king.
   d. Set up and solve five direct-mate problems provided by your merit badge counselor.
6. Do ONE of the following:
   a. Play at least three games of chess with other Scouts and/or your merit badge counselor. Replay the games from your score sheets and discuss with your counselor how you might have played each game differently.
   b. Play in a scholastic (youth) chess tournament and use your score sheets from that tournament to replay your games with your merit badge counselor. Discuss with your counselor how you might have played each game differently.
   c. Organize and run a chess tournament with at least four players, plus you. Have each competitor play at least two games.



Chess Resources

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website (with your parent's permission) at http://www.scoutstuff.org for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books

Basman, Michael. *Chess for Kids*. DK Children, 2006.

Chandler, Murray. *Chess Tactics for Kids*. Gambit Publications, 2005.

Coakley, Jeff. *Winning Chess Exercises for Kids*. Chess 'n Math Association, 2004.

———. *Winning Chess Puzzles for Kids*. Chess 'n Math Association, 2006.

———. *Winning Chess Strategy for Kids*. Chess 'n Math Association, 2000.

Emms, John. *Concise Chess: The Compact Guide for Beginners*. Everyman Chess, 2003.

Horowitz, Al. *Chess for Beginners: A Picture Guide*. Harper Perennial, 1992.

Mednis, Edmar. *Practical Middlegame Tips*. Everyman Chess, 1998.

Nunn, John. *Understanding Chess Endgames*. Gambit Publications, 2009.

Pandolfini, Bruce. *Chess Openings: Traps and Zaps*. Fireside, 1989.

———. *Chess Thinking: The Visual Dictionary of Chess Moves, Rules, Strategies and Concepts*. Fireside, 1995.

———. *Pandolfini's Ultimate Guide to Chess*. Fireside, 2003.

Schloss, Dave. *Chess 101: Everything a New Chess Player Needs to Know!* Questions Inc., 2014.

Watson, John, and Graham Burgess. *Chess Openings for Kids*. Gambit Publications, 2011.

Wilson, Fred, and Bruce Alberston. *202 Checkmates for Children*. Cardoza, 2004.

Organizations and Websites

While you can type "chess" into your search engine and find many good chess sites and resources, here are a few sites you might explore.

United States Chess Federation (USCF)

Telephone: 931-787-1234
Website: http://www.uschess.org

USCF State Scholastic Chess Coordinators
Website: http://main.uschess.org/content/view/172/131

World Chess Federation (FIDE)
Website: http://www.fide.com

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