

WSCF Testimonials

Thank you to WSCF for the support to get a chess program at Escuela Vieau School. We have had over 40 students participate in our after-school program and around 20 who played their first ever tournament. The startup kits and chess coach class offered by WSCF were instrumental in getting the program off the ground. While long term impacts are unknown our students have shown, enhanced decision making and a commitment to Learn and helping others learn a new game. At the same time, they use communication skills and problem solving to achieve a common goal. We look forward to a continued partnership with WSCF to grow our program and teach future leaders of our city.

Elisha Wolfe, Chess Coach, Vieau Elementary, Milwaukee

Ever since Tray-Lyn and Tramell started chess at Siloah, they went from playing chess to playing basketball and they have improved from 2014 to now and they are now A and B students. They've been playing their games very well. They commit to playing basketball and chess and I think that's very good.

Ms. Bessie M. Hervey, Grandmother, Siloah Lutheran School., Milwaukee

WSCF has greatly impacted my life and the life of so many kids. For the past decade or so I've had the privilege of being called coach by 100's of kids. I've seen young people grow in confidence as they've learned the game of chess. It is a joy to watch them develop life skills through competitive play in the WSCF tournaments. At my church, we've formed a chess club and watched it grow over time. Being able to host a tournament each year helps us raise funds to take our club to the Dells for the WSCF championship each year and the kids really look forward to that! I owe WSCF a great deal. These things are just the tip of the iceberg....

Thank you, Bob, and all involved for all you do!

Coach Lee Galien, Evangel Assembly of God Chess Club, Milwaukee

WSCF has helped me a lot in the past few years. the large number of over the board chess tournaments they have... their support in helping run a chess tournament the last couple of years in my hometown of Baraboo, which has given me the opportunity to get even more students interested in the game of chess....., help with improving my game chess at chess camps has helped me become a successful player.

Thank you WSCF for inspiring me and many others to play the game of chess, and thank you for all the support you have given me in spreading chess to others!

Joseph Zech, High School Student and Club Leader, Baraboo.

Chess allows my son Darrell, age 7 to think, learn and have fun. Chess has changed his way of thinking and decision making. Chess means a lot to our family and it has brought us a lot closer. It gives Darrell and I one on one time. Chess gives us something positive and constructive to do every Saturday and throughout the week. Chess has made a very positive impact in the both Darrell's and my life

Daniel Tribblett, Parent, Siloah Lutheran School, Milwaukee

*WSCF offered our school a chess instructor who has a **true passion** for the game of chess. Bob Patterson-Sumwalt sees the benefit of children learning the game of chess, including learning how to improve their concentration and strategy. He has been a committed instructor and really has connected with the children and youth who have joined our school Chess Club. It is amazing to see how after a few weeks, children and youth as young as 1st grade enter Chess Club and get the boards set-up and focus on playing. He is teaching them a life skill, and the number of youth who joined our school Chess Club doubled from the first to the second year, resulting in us having two separate hours for Chess Club to accommodate all interested students. Thank you for all that WSCF does for our students, as well as all the young people in the Milwaukee area!*

Barb Teste-Young, Parent Chess Club Organizer – Wauwatosa

Chess has helped my son. It has helped his concentration in everything he does. It has helped him slow down and stay more focused on his school work. Finally, it has improved his problem-solving skills.

Terry Voegel, Parent, Urban Middle School, Sheboygan.

My son Gabe began playing chess at age three. WSCF was instrumental in Gabe's development as a chess player. Chess played a critical role in Gabe's scholarly pursuits, teaching him how to think creatively and "on his feet."

My son, Gabriel Foster, began playing chess at age three. WSCF was instrumental in his development as a chess player. Chess played a very important role in Gabe's scholarly pursuits, teaching him how to think creatively and "on his feet." The critical thinking skills (and many others) that he learned playing and studying chess have been crucial to his academic success. Chess has informed Gabe's life and life decisions. He learned how to compete quietly and confidently, assess his game and missteps quickly and effectively, and implement necessary changes in a wise and timely fashion. Gabe recently graduated from Caltech, one of the world's premiere academic institutions. He is now working for A-Eye, a Silicon Valley area technology firm, on the leading edge of artificial intelligence research. I am convinced that Gabe's academic and career accomplishments would not have been fully attained if it were not for chess, and the invaluable help and guidance provided by WSCF.

Ron Foster, Parent and WSCF Board Member

When I was asked to teach an after-school chess class at Siloah Lutheran, I had a roomful of children playing a game. What motivated several to become serious students of chess was a long competitive season of tournaments organized by Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation. Wanting to be the best, inspiration to win trophies, has focused their minds developed a real eye for strategic thinking, while improving both grades and classroom behavior. This volume of scholastic competition is not available in many states, and it takes a lot of time and resources to sustain.

Charlie Rosenberg, Coach (of the finest up and coming 1st -5th grade chess team) **Siloah Lutheran School, Milwaukee**

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Daniel Tribblett, Parent, Siloah Lutheran School, Milwaukee

*WSCF brought **competitive** chess to my son Harold's elementary school and that really improved his overall school experience. The friendships he developed in the chess club complemented those in the classroom.*

*Of the four extra-curricular activities at his elementary school only chess club that held a competitive element. It was also the most popular. Many times, I heard children say how Friday was their **favorite** day of the week because that was when they went to chess club.*

*At the WSCF tournaments Harold learned sportsmanship especially how to handle loses. Playing six games of competitive chess in one day helped him build **emotional resiliency**. Harold is a much better player than I was at that age and that is entirely due to WSCF.*

Charles Windsor, Parent, Urban Middle School Coach, WSCF Board President

My son (Lincoln) has formed many new friendships through chess. It has improved his attention, as he learned that if he is not focused, he will lose, but most importantly has learned to lose and win graciously and respectfully. And yes, my 8-year-old can beat me in chess!

Mary Goldsmith, Parent, Burleigh Elementary, Brookfield

WSCF has provided K-12 students in the Green Bay Area an invaluable opportunity to play chess at the tournament level. For five years, I have taught K-5 students chess at Eisenhower Elementary School. Thru chess students have improved many other skills such a problem solving, vocabulary, perspective, turn-taking, patience, responsibility and importance of good sportsmanship. Students gained new friendships at school and from other Wisconsin schools at WSCF chess tournaments. These friendships have continued into middle and high school.

WSCF tournaments have given our students the chance to sharpen their chess playing skills with hundreds of other students at local schools while earning participation metals and tournament trophies. Last year our Chess Team participated in weekly WSCF tournaments and earned 12, 1st-3rd place team trophies and many individual trophies. Students' self-esteem soared as they saw the results of their hard work.

Bob Patterson-Sumwalt, WSCF Executive Director, has done an amazing job with organizing the tournaments. He is always encouraging the students to learn more strategies and even delivered a life-size chess set to our school for practice between tournament rounds. We are very grateful to the WSCF for positively changing student's lives!

**Simmi Mosier Speech – Language Pathologist, M.A., CCC-SLP, PDC
Chess Club Coach - YMCA Afterschool Enrichment, Green Bay**

I am writing to thank WSCF for giving me the opportunity to earn scholarships. Chess has had a lasting impact on my life, as I am sure it has on the lives of others.

I am currently going to school for Tool and Die, a field in which my ability to think ahead is crucial. The scholarship money I earned at your tournaments has allowed me to take all the classes I needed to take this semester, instead of having to drop one to work more. Without the opportunity, you provided, that would not be the case.

Thank you for helping me to bring chess into my life and the lives of many others.

Gregory Reese, Jr, Student, Waukesha Area Technical College

