

CYO Chess Is Coming this Fall!



CYO is launching a new Chess Program this Fall providing an opportunity for children in Grades 3 thru 8 to learn to play Chess in a fun environment while representing your Parish/Catholic School in match play! God gives our children many talents, and the Chess Program is part of several new initiatives on the part of CYO to offer children programs beyond the scope of our traditional sports programs.

CYO Chess will consist of 10 matches between respective Parish/School Teams with a Tournament at the end of the season. The Age Groups will be 3rd and 4th grade; 5th and 6th grade; 7th and 8th grade.

While this is a new program, CYO is leveraging off of its 40 years of experience in program development and initiatives. We are contemplating that each Parish/School will hold a practice learning session during the middle of the week, with most scheduled matches to occur on Friday nights at 7pm (there could be some matches on the weekend, but we would expect this to be a minority). Each team will consist of 6 players in their respective Age Group, who will be ranked according to their skill level. During weekly matches, you will be matched against children of similar skill level.

We expect the 3rd and 4th grade to focus on learning the game of chess, with an emphasis on instruction. 3rd and 4th grade children will, however, play in matches. CYO will also hold an Instructional Session (likely Saturday mornings at a centralized location) to supplement the instructional meetings at the Parish/School level.

The necessary equipment that is recommended is as follows:

- A vinyl chess board that is numbered on the sides and can be rolled up for travel;

- Chess pieces that are weighted at the bottom and are traditional in their design;

- A digital clock;

- Please DO NOT buy or bring chess pieces that are non-traditional (i.e. superheroes, etc.)

Coaches/Moderators – we need parents to volunteer to be coaches/moderators for Chess! We can help you learn the fundamentals of the game.

If you are interested in having your child play Chess, please contact your local CYO Parish Coordinator, or contact Paul Echausse, Executive Director of CYO of Long Island at paul@cyons.org or 516-433-1145 x18.

Team registrations are due by October 15th and the match play will begin in mid-November.