US CHESS

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 2026 INVITATIONALS

JOHN T. IRWIN

9TH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS

GM ARNOLD DENKER

42ND NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

WIM RUTH HARING

14TH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONS

DEWAIN BARBER

16TH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III

7TH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

GM MAURICE ASHLEY

1ST ANNUAL NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF K-3 STATE CHAMPIONS

FM SUNIL WEERAMANTRY

7TH NATIONAL BLITZ TOURNAMENT OF STATE CHAMPIONS

SPONSORS

Thank you to all the U.S. Open Invitationals sponsors.

Anonymous

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John D. Rockefeller V

US Chess

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US Chess expresses special thanks to Dwight Barber, the Ursula Foster Family, and Jon Haskel for their support.

2026 INVITATIONALS AWARDS

Opening Ceremony

August 3, 2026

Irwin: Pearl, 1:30 p.m.

DHBRA: Exhibit Hall B, 3 p.m.

WELCOME REMARKS
Mike Nietman

NATIONAL ANTHEM

WEERAMANTRY BLITZ AWARDS

US CHESS BOARD AND STAFF
Fred Abousleman, Executive Director

THE GM ARNOLD DENKER LEGACY
Dewain Barber

THE DEWAIN BARBER LEGACY
Dewain Barber

THE WIM RUTH HARING LEGACY
Maureen Grimaud

THE JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III LEGACY
John D. Rockefeller V

THE GM MAURICE ASHLEY LEGACY
John D. Rockefeller V

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIEF ARBITER REMARKS
Chris Kim

GROUP PHOTOS

REDUCE WASTE

Please retain this program for the Closing Ceremony. A PDF is also available on all event websites.

College/University Scholarships

The first-place finisher in each event will receive a $5,000 college/university scholarship. Second- through fifth-place finishers will receive $4,000, $3,000, $2,000, and $1,000, respectively. If there is a tie, then the scholarship will be awarded to the highest finisher, based on tiebreaks; the scholarship will not be split. A recipient may use the scholarship at any school of higher learning. To redeem the scholarship, a recipient must provide proof of enrollment in an institution of higher learning, prove standing as at least a half-time student, and claim the scholarship before their 26th birthday. See event websites for redemption information.

Ashley 6 and Under Chess Award

A $500 Ashley 6 and Under Chess Award will be presented to the highest finisher six years old or younger as of the first day of the tournament. If there are fewer than two participants six years old or younger, the award will go to the top finisher seven years old or younger. There must be at least two eligible players for the award to be given. If there is a tie, the award will go to the highest finisher based on tiebreaks. The award will not be split.

Rockefeller 8 and Under Chess Award

A $500 Rockefeller 8 and Under Chess Award will be presented to the highest finisher eight years old or younger as of the first day of the tournament. If there are fewer than two participants eight years old or younger, the award will go to the top finisher nine years old or younger. There must be at least two eligible players for the award to be given. If there is a tie, the award will go to the highest finisher based on tiebreaks. The award will not be split.

Barber 11 and Under Chess Award

A $500 Barber 11 and Under Chess Award will be presented to the highest finisher 11 years old or younger as of the first day of the tournament. If there are fewer than two participants 11 years old or younger, the award will go to the top finisher 12 years old or younger. There must be at least two eligible players for the award to be given. If there is a tie, the award will go to the highest finisher based on tiebreaks. The award will not be split.

Ursula Foster Memorial Awards (Haring and Denker)

Two $1000 Ursula Foster Memorial Awards will be presented: one to the highest Haring finisher 12 years old or younger as of the first day of the tournament, and the other to the highest Denker finisher 15 years old or younger as of the first day of the tournament. If fewer than two participants are 12 years old or younger in the Haring, the award will go to the top finisher 13 years old or younger. If fewer than two participants are 15 years old or younger in the Denker, the award will go to the top finisher 16 years old or younger. There must be at least two eligible players for each award to be given. If there is a tie, each award will go to the highest finisher based on tiebreaks. Neither award will be split.

State versus State Championship

The state whose representatives have the highest combined score will be recognized. Gift certificates for the U.S. Open Chess Store will be awarded to each player from the three highest-scoring states. In addition, gift certificates will be awarded to each player of the highest-scoring state whose players' average rating is Under 2100, Under 1900, or Under 1600. A total of $400 in gift certificates per invitational ($2,400 total) will be awarded. States must have at least three players from the five simultaneous national state champions invitationals to be eligible for team prizes. Each state's Irwin representative will be the state's honorary team captain.

Additional Prizes

CASH PRIZES

The top five finishers in each scholastic event will receive cash prizes of $800 (first place), $500 (second place), $400 (third place), $300 (fourth place), and $200 (fifth place). Each player tied for fifth place will receive $100. The biggest overall upsets in the Denker, Haring, and Barber will receive Dwight Barber Overall Upset Prizes in the amount of $100. **Cash prizes will be sent in accordance with the U.S. Open prize distribution system** (see *https://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2025/usopen_old/billcom-prizes.pdf* for details)**.**

UPSET PRIZES & CLASS PRIZES

Gift Certificates to the U.S. Open Chess Store will be awarded for Best Game ($100), Biggest Rockefeller and Ashley Upset overall ($100), and Biggest Upset in each round ($50). The following class prize winners will each receive $100 cash awards from Jon Haskel, in memory of Joanne Haskel: 1st place, U2000 (Denker); 1st place, U1800 (Barber); 1st place, U1600 (Haring); and 1st place, U1500 (Rockefeller). The following Ashley class prize winner will receive a $100 cash award from John Rockefeller V in honor of his mother Susan Percy Rockefeller: 1st place, U1200.

Gift certificates must be picked up during the awards ceremony and redeemed with the U.S. Open Chess Store onsite.

Weeramantry Blitz Awards

The top five finishers in each section (Championship: 2100+, 1800-2099, 1500-1799, 1200-1499, Under 1200) will receive gift certificates to the U.S. Open Chess Store in the amounts of $240 (first place), $200 (second place), $160 (third place), $120 (fourth place), and $80 (fifth place). If there is a tie, then the prize will go to the highest finisher based on tiebreaks.

Irwin Awards

For information on Irwin prizes, awards, and gift certificates, visit *https://new.uschess.org/irwin* or scan the QR code at right.

MANY THANKS

TO OUR AWARDS PRESENTERS

Dewain Barber, Maureen Grimaud, Michelle Martinez, Mike Nietman, John D. Rockefeller V, and FM Sunil Weeramantry

Closing Ceremony

August 6, 2026
Irwin: Gerald R. Ford Room, 4:15 p.m.
DHBRA: Vandenberg, 4:15 pm

WELCOME REMARKS

Mike Nietman

ROUND SIX UPSET AWARDS
BIGGEST OVERALL UPSET AWARDS
BEST GAME AWARDS

DENKER PRIZES

Dewain Barber, Presenter
1st Place: Plaque & $5,000 College Scholarship
2nd Place: Plaque & $4,000 College Scholarship
3rd Place: Plaque & $3,000 College Scholarship
4th Place: $2,000 College Scholarship
5th Place: $1,000 College Scholarship
Ursula Foster Memorial Award
Joanne Haskel Memorial Under 2000 Award

HARING PRIZES

Maureen Grimaud, Presenter
1st Place: Plaque & $5,000 College Scholarship
2nd Place: Plaque & $4,000 College Scholarship
3rd Place: Plaque & $3,000 College Scholarship
4th Place: $2,000 College Scholarship
5th Place: $1,000 College Scholarship
Ursula Foster Memorial Award
Joanne Haskel Memorial Under 1600 Award

BARBER PRIZES

Dewain Barber, Presenter
1st Place: Plaque & $5,000 College Scholarship
2nd Place: Plaque & $4,000 College Scholarship
3rd Place: Plaque & $3,000 College Scholarship
4th Place: $2,000 College Scholarship
5th Place: $1,000 College Scholarship
Barber 11 and Under Award
Joanne Haskel Memorial Under 1800 Award

ROCKEFELLER PRIZES

John D. Rockefeller V, Presenter
1st Place: Plaque & $5,000 College Scholarship
2nd Place: Plaque & $4,000 College Scholarship
3rd Place: Plaque & $3,000 College Scholarship
4th Place: $2,000 College Scholarship
5th Place: $1,000 College Scholarship
Rockefeller 8 and Under Award
Joanne Haskel Memorial Under 1500 Award

ASHLEY PRIZES

John D. Rockefeller V, Presenter
1st Place: Plaque & $5,000 College Scholarship
2nd Place: Plaque & $4,000 College Scholarship
3rd Place: Plaque & $3,000 College Scholarship
4th Place: $2,000 College Scholarship
5th Place: $1,000 College Scholarship
Ashley 6 and Under Award
Susan Percy Rockefeller Memorial Under 1200 Award

STATE TEAM AWARDS PRESENTATION

CLOSING REMARKS

Mike Nietman

THE 2026 U.S. OPEN INVITATIONALS ROLL CALL

(confirmed participants as of July 27, 2026)

STATE	IRWIN	DENKER	HARING	BARBER	ROCKEFELLER	ASHLEY
AK	Eduardo Jucutan	Randall Pfeifer	Iryna Pomynalna	Ambrose Lee	Gianluca Benucci	Michael Titarenko
AL	Tom Denton	Samuel Baskarraj	Sophia Jerez	Arush Batchu	Aryaa Sathees	Yuan Su
AR	Peter Pritchett	Havish Kunchapalli	Hanshita Prapakaran	Kanishk Malli	Viraj Aare	Sanjay Selvarasu
AZ	Robby Adamson	Amudan Mangudi	Ridhi Varma Danduprolu	Roshan Sethuraman	Leon Li	William Zheng
CA-N	Tim Taylor	Suyuan Gui	Jenny Qi	Patrick Liu	Reyansh Paragiri	Kaihan Liu
CA-S	Paul Rohwer	Julian Colville	Tori Porat	Ararat Badgasarian	Howard Wang	Renae Chen
CO	Randy Canney	Grayson Manuel	Tanya Prabhu	Ashwin Mathimaran	Dylan Kovacs	Christian Hardy
CT	Mikhail Koganov	Jamison Kao	Jasmine Su	Kushagra Bhargava	Brian Dai	Ethan Ing
DC	Sal Rosario	Preston Plummer	Grace Keefe	Lenox Surrette	Logan Shaw	Blake Shaw
DE	James Rizzitano	Wyatt Stout	D. Saravanakumar Vidhya	Nishk Mendonza	Pranav Srinivasan	Lucas Liu
FL	Julio Morella Cabrera	Marvin Gao	Sophie Li	Maxwell Yang	Yi Sha	Daneel Kuznetsov
GA	Alonso Zapata	Vishruth Yelisetti	Evelyn Qiao	Santosh Saharsh	Landon Meadors	Ayurda Kavale
HI	Cornelius Rubsamen	Jeffrey Paul Bennett	Aurelia White	Nova Galanto	Eito Nishida	Apollo Van Brunt
IA	Robert Reynolds	Ayaan Desai	Irene Fei	Ramesh Nehanraj	Corin Vandekrol	Albert Zhu
ID	Brian Lange	Darren Su		Candice Liang	Lachlan Two Dogs	Kiaan Upadhyay
IL	Dmitry Gurevich	Anshul Shetty	Elizabeth Xia	Artemii Khanbutaev	Aiden Li	Emily Tang
IN	James Mills	John Bentrup	Madison Brown	Harvey Hanke	Vihaan Narisetty	Jeremiah Tang
KS	Ken Sarner	Aayush Wadhwa	Ananya Wadhwa	Oliver Rana	Frederick Sumpter	Ratul Rahula Krishnan
KY	Joseph Farrell	Chris Liu	Katie Yuan	John Abraham	Titus Bosse	Samir Salem
LA	James Eryk Hargrove	Matteo Runge	Hannah Ren	Leo Le-Tran	Theo McGlynn-Wright	Matthew McKinnie
MA	Vlad Farfel	Vihaan Jain	Emma Zhang	William Wu	Ella Zhang	Devansh Vellanki
MD	Jesse Kraai	Nitesh Cherukuri	Caroline Jiang	Steven Liu	Caden Liu	Stella Cao
ME	Pavel Sulyandziga	Charlie Creswell	Mya Brichacek	Dimitri Smalley	Shaurya Kumar	
MI	Huso Avdic	Jesse Ren	Olivia Lin	Aaban Mogal	Rocky Wang	Sanmay Prakash
MI-ALT	Ariel Levi	Druheen Das	Patricia Tan	Freyr Wang	Aarav Karthik	Ethan Dai
MN	Leonard Johnson	John Blomer	Vivian Yang	Ajay Singamsetty	Ryan Zhou	Victor Nyeggen
MO	Jason Delpire	Alex Zhang	Asha Silva	Paul Wonsidler	Evan Jin	Evan Zhang
MS	Douglas Stewart	John Wesley Ozier	Kayleigh King	Lucos Ma	Owen Young	Emma Nations
MT	Richard Hobbs	Declan Pham		Chase Rands	Parker Newton	Stanley Pribik
NC	Chris Mabe	Ethan Liu	Celine Chen	Andrew Wu	Sriansh Katta	Mustafa Muhammad
ND		Jerrick Townsend	Myka Tesch	Zachary Miller	James Lindseth	Aven Beach
NE	Jeffery Solheim	Luke Hengen	Mansi Adduri	William Jessop	Siddharth Parthasarathy	Divam Kumar
NH	Hanon Russell	Noah Van Vugt	Avni Nagaraj	Rachel Day	Arden Schran	Rushank Shringarpure
NJ	Joel Sneed	Akhil Velampalli	Anushka Ayyappan	Eshaan Hebbar	Aayansh Pramanik	Mark Xu
NM	David Langlois	Mateo Lucero	Kyra Gurrola	Harshin Jagirapu	Alexander Boman	Barbara Iglesias
NV	Richard Bitoon	Ethan Chan	Jewel Era	Jarl Bitoon	Wesley Kwan	Jasper Xie
NY	Nathan Resika	Jason Jiang	Chloe Gaw	Sam Luger	Grayson Xiang	Max Mulholland
OH	David Friedman	Sunav Adhikari	Anjana Thottimpudi	Sharath Radhakrishnan	Aanya Parul Karthikeyan	Mehmet Yilanli
OK	Chuck Unruh	Lafayette Chen	Kiara Pavithran	Jack Xue	Aviel Ndengang	Nithan Vaithilingam
OR	Steven Van Enk	Hayul Lim	Laasya Lanka	Tyler Cheng	Raymond Zhao	Rihaan Rahul
PA	Karl Dehmelt	Erick Zhao	Chloe Wang	Tariq Yue	Aayansh Samanta	Ridhan Venkatesan
RI	Michael Carey	Muhammad Azimzade	Joy Zhang	Gustav Wernevi		
SC	Edsel Pena	Shikhar Haldia	Abigail Lin	Jason Marshal	Tanay Sanghani	Johann Jayabarath
SD	Nels Truelson	Caleb Neff	Elizabeth Chmura	Proverb Linder	Benjamin Mareska	Nathan Neff
TN	Peter Bereolos	Armaan Singhvi	Sabrina Hoja	Vivaan Lodha	Jasmine Lin	Sam Lepley
TX	Jacob Cherian	Vaseegaran Nandhakumar	Yangyang Shen	Julian Joseph	Srihas Maddipati	Advaithkrishna Rajeshkanna
UT	David Forthoffer	Brayden Van De Graaff	Veda Vishal	Olivia Ding	Banks Bennion	Tanay Kadiyala
VA	Mark Ginsburg	Vaibhav Kalpaka	Khanim Ismayilova	Alexander Zhou	Tanush Dokka	Prateek Gopisetty
VT		Blake Bentley	Clara Zhang	Vivek Chadive	Harsha Chadive	Wilder Bernstein
WA	Leonid Gavrysh	Stephen Willy	Veronique Joseph	Ted Wang	Andy Chen	Harvey Wang
WI	Mark Lencho	Nicholas Pennington-Cross	Aradh Kaur	Chase Ruby	Gurugrahan Gurumoorthi	Shashwath Sabarish
WV	James Fuller II	Nathaniel Des Ruisseau		Gallagher Kelsch	Aadhavan Thangasamy	Julian Schmidt
WY	Daniel Joelson	Charles Paterson				