

Utah Chess Association Chess Excellence Scholarship Fund

Mission Statement: This scholarship fund is designed to encourage youth (ages 5-24) throughout the state of Utah to pursue excellence in chess and to promote intellectual development through this fun and wholesome recreational activity.

Purpose: Chess is perceived as a very inexpensive activity which can be learned in the home and pursued as a hobby and/or recreational activity for a life time. This Utah Chess Association Scholarship Fund is designed to reward students for excellence in their chess who want to achieve more than a hobby and who want to represent Utah on the national and/or world stage. This scholarship is also designed to allow individuals and businesses to have a means to contribute to Utah youth who have achieved national recognition and whom may want to pursue chess nationally and internationally.

Requirements for Awards

1. Youth ages 5-24 must reside in the state of Utah for 6 months prior to an award being issued.
2. The Activity Requirement will be 30 rated games (either USCF or FIDE-rated – if FIDE-rated, submitted to the USCF for verification) in the past 12 months in which the award is to be disbursed. Match play and/or Quick rated games are not counted in the aggregate of the 30 required games.
3. Qualifying by Personal Right - Players may earn a personal right to a monetary award within a 12 month period after achieving one or more of the following qualifications:
 - a) Earning an invitation for one of the following tournaments - World Youth, Pan-American Youth Festival, or North American Youth Championship. Both the World Youth Championship and Pan American Youth Festival have specific requirements for invitation as defined by the USCF. The North American Youth Championship is an open format for anyone that wishes to participate. For the purposes of this requirement, a player would need to be selected as the USCF representative (#1 player who meets the qualifications). Additionally invitations to the US Junior, US Cadet and US Championship would also qualify. Participation is not required in any of these events, but providing the invitation or other proof from the USCF to the UCA will suffice. The 12 month period will extend from the date of invitation or USCF press release (whichever is earlier) to 12 months after the conclusion of the actual event.
 - b) Being named to the United States All American Team. The 12 month period for this qualification will extend 12 months beyond the date of the press release announcement to the end of the year for which the participant has been named to the All American Team. For example a player named to the All American Team in September of 2009 would be an All American from that date to December 31, 2010. So the eligibility range to use this as a qualification would be from September 2009 through December 31, 2011 (12 months after the participant's All American status expires.)
 - c) Being selected to participate in the US Chess School or Kasp arov Chess School. The 12 month period for this qualification will extend from the date of invitation through 12 months after the chess school has concluded.
 - d) Being within the top 5 players of the United States Top 100 List for their age. The 12 month period for this qualification will begin upon the 25th day of the month in which the supplement is published and it will continue through a 12 month period following the 25th of the month in which the new supplement replaces the supplement used as a qualification.
4. Youth between the ages of 18-24 may continue to receive this assistance if they qualified by personal right with the above requirements at age 17 and they meet the activity requirement. For scholarship disbursement purposes they will receive a percentage based on the number of qualifiers that they achieved at age 17.

Disbursing of Scholarship Funds

All monies contributed to this Utah Youth Chess Scholarship Fund are to be used for expenses related directly to maintain this organization's non-profit status and/or related legal disputes, costs associated for auditing, providing tax forms/statements for donors, bank accounts and more especially to be granted to the youth that achieve the above requirements for their excellence in chess. It is expected that the costs for these clerical functions could be kept to an absolute minimum and without the need to contract with outside parties for professional services.

No monies are to be paid to members of the board except to the costs listed above or to help them defend themselves against legal disputes directly connected to this organization. All monies must be disbursed in their entirety, if there are no related costs as listed above, on a quarterly basis (in the months of January, April, July and October) to any youth ages 5-24 that meet the age, activity and qualification requirements for awards. Qualifiers will be counted if they are achieved (or counted for a range of dates as defined above) in the 12 month period prior to the 1st day of January, April, July and October. If there are no qualified youth that have applied for this scholarship within the prior 12 month period then the money will not be disbursed until a qualified youth applies. If multiple qualified applicants meet the above requirements then a formula will be used for awards. The formula will be based on the four criteria described above for "Qualifying by Personal Right". Each applicant will be awarded one point for each of these four qualifiers (a, b, c or d) within the prior 12 months. Multiple points will not be awarded for multiple qualifications within a single qualifier. Each of the four qualifiers (a, b, c or d) can only be used for a single point for each individual and no individual can earn more than four points in the aggregate. The total of points for all applicants will then be summed, and the quarterly scholarship fund will be divided by equal percentage for the total of all points. Each qualified applicant will then be awarded a percentage of the monies multiplied by their individual number of points.

(For example: one applicant achieved all 4 of the qualifications (a, b, c and d), and another applicant achieved one (d). Four points would be awarded to the first applicant and one point would be awarded to the second applicant. The sum total of points would be five. The scholarship money in the fund would be divided by 5 and this would achieve a ratio of 20% for each point. The first applicant would receive 4x 20% for a total of 80% of the scholarship money for that quarter. The 2nd applicant would receive 1x 20% for a total of 20% of the money for that quarter.)

All scholarships are to be ratified by a majority of the Board by personal vote and/or email before the awards are disbursed. All other expenses as listed above are also to be ratified by a majority of the Board by vote and/or email.