

16th Annual Western Alliance Summer Online Chess Camp.

June 22-25, 2020 / Open to all up to 1700 USCF

10:00 AM-2:00 PM (Monday-Thursday on Zoom)



How ONLINE Camp Works: Students still get blocks of lessons at set times with different instructors covering a wide range of subjects and suitable for their levels. They can still raise hands and ask questions and they can also save all the information on their desktops or in the cloud. They can also leave and join back when needed and participate in discussions.

For most of the 15 years we run this Camp for Tucson, we considered adding an online version, like a Group version. Now, in this new chess reality, we feel it is imperative to adopt and still be able to provide good option to those that love chess, want to learn and play but are still much deprived of it in this environment.

Therefore, we are both disappointed and excited at the same time to offer this online format to our students this year.

We are disappointed, because this year we will all miss the face-to-face fun aspect of the camp. We will not see students socializing and helping each other, playing Pokemon during the break, eating an In-N-Out burger while getting ready for Simuls and Bughouses.

But we are also genuinely excited, because not only we can provide high quality learning and fun experience to campers but also help fill the extreme chess void created by COVID-19 implications. As for online chess lessons, as witnessed in the past 2-3 months of doing chess groups online only, the attention span and informational retaining capacity actually often greatly improved.

Our reputation as a high quality chess learning and fun camp is what that drew so many students of all ages and levels to our Camp for so many years. And we would like to keep it that way. However, with all else going on in their lives such as online summer classes, and the fact that it is much harder to stare at a screen for hours without a break, we will make the camp shorter and provide extra time to get food and see family even for few minutes during the camp. And maybe we might use this as a platform for future online camps too.



Groups: All Groups follow the same schedule.

We will aim for 4 groups as usual: No age restriction.

Group 1: Beginner (WILDCATS) (Approx 100 -500 USCF)

Group 2: Intermediate (COYOTES) (Approx 500 -900 USCF)

Group 3: Advanced Intermediate (HAWKS) (Approx 900 -1200 USCF)

Group 4: Special (BEARS). (Approx 1200 -1700 USCF)



Schedule:

4 days: June 22-26 (Monday-Thursday). We will switch from Tuesday-Friday schedule to 1 day early to allow for students extra time to get ready for the July 4th trips.

4 Blocks per day:

Block 1. 10:00-10:45 AM (Lesson / Lecture)

Block 2. 11:00- 11:45 AM (Lesson / Lecture)

Block 3. FunTime 11:45-12:30 PM (Daily Fun Online Activities)

Block 4. Game Time 12:30- 2:00 PM



Instructors:

Professional Instructors and Tournament players. We will pick the final Instructor group closer to the camp and that way we can incorporate special guest speakers too.



Virtual Reward System:

Students may win Virtual or real prizes based on assignments, overall scores or the daily FunTime scores.



Interface/ Software:

Zoom / Chess.com will be our main platforms. ICC and Skype will be used as backups.



Preparation / Orientation:

Once a student is added to the roster, Mrs. Coy will be in contact and help set up and check connections to make sure all works. **Monday at 9:00 AM will be the general Orientation for all.**



Payments:

Due to the unprecedented situation and shorter camp hours, the price will be half the usual amount and set at \$200 per student with discounts for additional family members. Payments will be mostly done via online platforms of Zelle and Venmo (both are our preferred methods) but Paypal and likely Events4chess.com (also using Paypal or a Credit card) as well as a personal check will be acceptable too.



Questions:

For all questions relating to the camp, please contact IM Levon Altounian at 520-891-3632 / LALTOUNIAN@MSN.COM and for logistics such as setting up the computer: Molly Coy at 520-349-7580.

Arizona Chess For Schools, LLC / Levon Altounian / Organizer



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