

# “Character Chess” Chort 5 Volunteer Initiative

## 2011 Program Overview & Session Calendar

### **Background:**

Encouraging academic excellence and good character is a major objective of Cohort 5’s Volunteer Initiative at Wohl Recreation Center. To that end, we endeavor to partner with The Wohl Center to implement an after school values based initiative entitled “Character Chess”. Volunteer character coaches from The St. Louis Business Diversity Initiative will meet **bi-weekly** on Wednesdays from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM at The Wohl Recreation Center. The students will learn how to play chess, perform comprehensive reading exercises and explore the importance of practicing good character. Every student will receive a Character Chess Manual where they will record reading responses, goals and reflections. This program is activity centered, yet students will be encouraged to participate in small group discussions and present their thoughts ideas and strategies for winning in Chess and in life.

### **Leadership and Coordination:**

- The Program Committee of Cohort 5 will oversee coordination, scheduling and evaluation of the program.
- Membership of this committee will be selected on Thursday, August 25, 2011

### **Supplies and Resources:**

- A complete listing of the supplies and resources will be posted on The Wohl Center Volunteer Project Plan. Character Chess Manuals will be provided by Imagine Services for all youth participants.
- *Volunteers will not be responsible for supplying any program materials*

### **2011 Program Duration:**

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 to Wednesday, December 21, 2011 (Holidays are excluded from the schedule)

### **Volunteer Requirements:**

All volunteers must complete The Wohl Recreation Center volunteer form. The forms must be returned to us prior to your first session. The Center also performs background checks on all volunteers. At this time formal training is not required, however prior to the first volunteer session, we will work with the volunteers as needed to ensure the session expectations and goals are understood. **As students are more receptive to feedback from adults with whom they have relationships, volunteers are encouraged to register for more than one session to help increase the likelihood of building those relationships.**

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### **Program Outline:**

#### **Phase I: 9/14, 9/28, 10/12 and 10/26**

##### **Mastering the Basics of Character Chess**

- Character Chess Pre-test administered at program initiation to gauge pre-program character
- Participants will read and perform the activities in Character Chess Sessions 1-5
- Each session provides a challenge for all level players
- Volunteers DO NOT need to know how to play Chess. Volunteers will facilitate the learning and discussions with the participants

#### **Parent Update/Progress Awards: 10/26/11**

#### **Phase II: 11/9, 11/23, 12/7 and 12/21**

##### **Strategies for Winning In Chess and Life**

- Session 6-10 of Character Chess stress strategies for being successful in School and in Life.
- Adult volunteers will help participants develop goals and strategies for success in school

##### **Competitive Play and Tournament**

- As students master the movement of the pieces, coaches will encourage participants to play chess according to the rules after completing the Character Chess Session.
- All students perform all readings and the corresponding interpretation of story morals and values displayed independently with assistance provided by reading coaches as needed.
- All students also independently **present** their action plans to the coaches at the end of each session.
- Character post-tests will be administered on 12/21/11 to gauge the degree to which the participants' character has improved as a result of the program.

#### **Chess Tournament: 12/21/11**



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**\*All sessions begin promptly at 5:30PM, end at 6:30PM and take place at The Wohl Recreation Center.**

Session Date		Program Outline/Comments
<b>1</b>	Wednesday, September 14, 2011	<b>Begin Phase I</b>
<b>2</b>	Wednesday, September 28, 2011	
<b>3</b>	Wednesday, October 12, 2011	
<b>4</b>	Wednesday, October 26, 2011	<b>Progress Awards, End of Phase I</b>
<b>5</b>	Wednesday, November 9, 2011	<b>Begin Phase II</b>
<b>6</b>	Wednesday, November 23, 2011	
<b>7</b>	Wednesday, December 7, 2011	
<b>8</b>	Wednesday, December 21, 2011	<b>Final Awards Program-End of Session I          Chess Tournament</b>