

# Chess in the Park

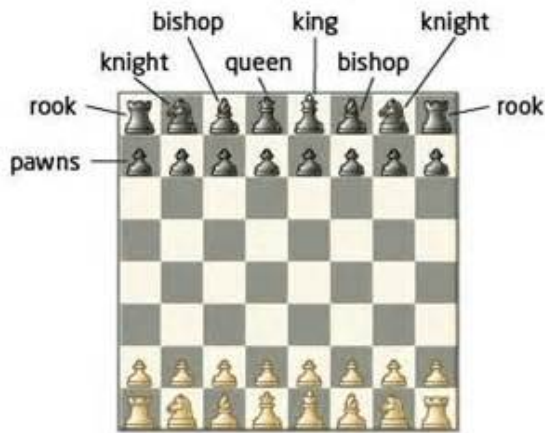


## Historically...

The history of chess spans over 1500 years. The earliest predecessor of the game probably originated in India, before the 6th century AD; a minority of historians believe the game originated in China. From India, the game spread to Persia. When the Arabs conquered Persia, chess was taken up by the Muslim world and subsequently spread to Southern Europe. In Europe, chess evolved into its current form in the 15th century. In the second half of the 19th century, modern chess tournament play began, and the first World Chess Championship was held in 1886. The 20th century saw great leaps forward in chess theory and the establishment of the World Chess Federation (FIDE). Developments in the 21st century include use of computers for analysis, which originated in the 1970s with the first programmed chess games on the market. Online gaming appeared in the mid-1990s. Today chess is played at home, in parks, in tournaments and online, worldwide.

## What do I need to bring?

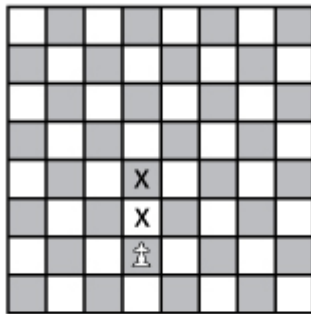
Whenever going out to play in the park, weather is going to be a factor. But when it comes to equipment Chess Pieces and the Chess Board are all you need to play the game. When playing in the park, these items are usually provided but if you want to bring your own, feel free. And always bring a bottle a water, STAY HYDRATED!



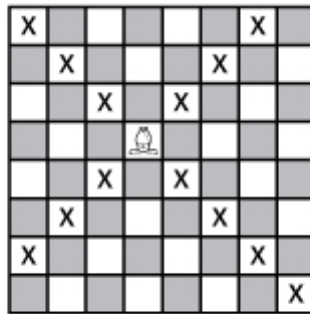
### How to play:

The first step in starting a chess game is learning how to properly setting up the board. The two armies oppose each other across the board, with the smallest pieces -- pawns -- manning each army's second row, and the larger pieces on the first row. The royal couple of king and queen sit in the center of the army, flanked by the bishops, knights and rooks. Each piece moves in a unique manner and understanding how the pieces move is a must when learning how to play chess.

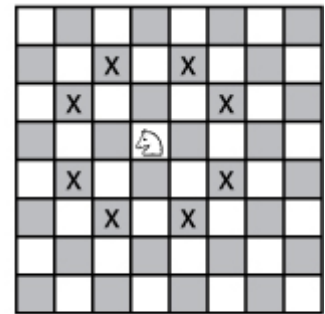
### How to move:



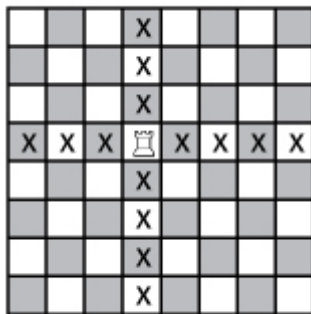
**pawn**  
[can move 2 squares on 1st move only!]



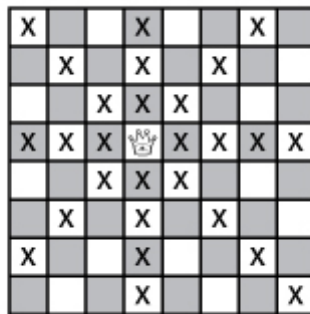
**bishop**



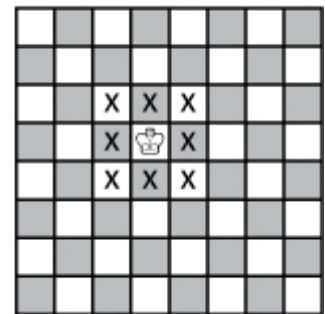
**knight**



**rook**



**queen**



**king**

### Where?



#### Washington Square Park

Located right at the heart of NYU, at the corner of University Place and Washington Square North, at the edge of the park is located the stationary Chess/Checkers Tables. You can come with your own chess pieces or

use the pieces located at the park's Conservancy office, or at the tables during open season. From Spring through early Fall, chess lovers and novices alike can be found sitting and playing the game. For the beginner, lessons are available. For the expert, come and test your skills against other players. Washington Square Park has been a New York City Parks hotspot for Chess players of all kinds. Located right in the Village, amongst New York Chess history. The nearby neighborhood is host to multiple chess shops, some still opened today; as well as the Marshall Chess Club.

## Chess & Checkers House - Central Park



Located mid-park at 64th Street, The Chess & Checkers House is one of five Park visitor centers run by the Central Park Conservancy. Chess and Checkers players are welcome to borrow pieces from the Conservancy staff, or bring their own. Soon after the Park was opened in the 1860s, it was criticized by local newspapers for its lack of facilities for children and their caregivers. The commissioners responded by creating a Children's District in the southern part of the park. In 1986, the Conservancy restored the building and built the rustic pergola surrounding the house to provide

shade for players. Playing Chess here is free and opened to all ages. From beginners to experts, this is one of NYC's best places to spend a summer afternoon playing chess and enjoying Central Park's many treasures.

## Union Square



To many people, locals and tourists alike, Union Square is the main social center of New York. You can find farmer's markets, street performers (dancers, musicians, magicians, etc.), people selling art or jewelry and so much more. At the southwest corner of the square's melting pot of NYC activity you can find the chess players. Most of the chess players are out there to make their living; for most of them it's their one and only job and means of making money. Some of them do have other jobs and

come to play in their times off from work - they will usually be the ones who charge a little less per game. More than anything else - more than the money - they all love the game of chess, and love the competitive atmosphere in the area.