



U. S. Chess Federation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Players Qualify for the 2006 World Youth Chess Championship

(Crossville, TN)The following players have qualified to play in the 2006 World Youth Chess Championship currently scheduled for October 20-31 in Batumi, Georgia. A new Under 8 age category has been added by FIDE for this year's event. The top players by rating in each age category are considered the official candidates. In addition, Alex Lenderman qualifies by right as the winner of the Gold medal in the Under 16 Male section of the 2005 World Youth Championships in Belfort, France.

Players may qualify to represent the United States by being established as one of the three highest rated candidates by peak post-tournament rating in the previous 12 months ending with events included in the April Rating Supplement. This year they may also qualify by being within 50 rating points or less from the third qualifying spot from either 2006 or 2005 (see below for 2005 3rd place ratings by category). A player may also qualify by personal right by achieving a medal at the World Youth in a previous year or by achieving a Gold Medal at the previous Pan American Youth Festival.

The coaches scheduled for this year's team are Michael Khodarkovsky – Head of Delegation, Aviv Friedman, Joel Benjamin, and John Fedorowicz.

Additional information about the 2006 World Youth Chess Championships will be announced on the USCF website as soon as it becomes available.

* Correction explanation: "FIDE has decided to add the Under 8 category in 2007 rather than 2006. We regret any confusion this as caused to players and families due to the previous listing of names in these sections."

Boys

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Peak Post Tournament Rating</u> |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| U-10 Boys | Darwin Yang | TX | 1943 |
| | Brian Luo | WI | 1937 |
| | Lucas Van Beuzekom | FL | 1799 |
| | Fernando Spada | TX | 1779 |

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|-----------|----------------------|----|------|
| | Fernando Mendez, Jr. | TX | 1760 |
| | Aleksandr Ostrovskiy | NY | 1757 |
| | Brennen Lee | AZ | 1753 |
| | Kevin Bu | MN | 1735 |
| | Eric Zhang | CA | 1726 |
| | Nicholas Nip | CA | 1716 |
| | Eric Liao | NJ | 1705 |
| | Jonathan Chin | TX | 1700 |
| | Atulya Shetty | MI | 1690 |
| | Sam Schmakel | IL | 1688 |
| | Alexander Katz | NJ | 1679 |
| | Albert Ho | FL | 1677 |
| | James Shao | NY | 1670 |
| U-12 Boys | Ray Robson | FL | 2213 |
| | Parker Zhao | NY | 2208 |
| | Daniel Naroditsky | CA | 2003 |
| | Michael Yang | MN | 1965 |
| | Zachary Young | NY | 1962 |
| | Christopher Heung | FL | 1957 |
| U-14 Boys | Marc Arnold | NY | 2242 |
| | Alexander Heimann | PA | 2177 |
| | Mark Heimann | PA | 2146 |
| | Michael Lee | WA | 2141 |
| | Victor Shen | NJ | 2139 |
| | Jeffrey Haskel | FL | 2139 |
| | Michael Thaler | NY | 2123 |
| | Christian Tanaka | CA | 2113 |
| U-16 Boys | Robert Hess | NY | 2403 |
| | Daniel Ludwig | FL | 2338 |
| | Evan Ju | NJ | 2221 |
| | James Critelli | CT | 2203 |
| | Francis Chen | CA | 2177 |
| | Sarkis Aghaian | NY | 2177 |
| U-18 Boys | Salvijus Bercys | NY | 2501 |
| | Alex Lenderman | NY | 2496 |
| | Igor Schneider | NY | 2421 |
| | Mackenzie Molner | NJ | 2383 |
| | Joel Banawa | CA | 2381 |

Girls

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Peak Post Tournament Rating</u> |
|------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| U-10 Girls | Sylvia Yang | TX | 1759 |
| | Eve Zhurbinskiy | NJ | 1601 |
| | Caroline Zhu | TX | 1571 |
| | Sarah Chiang | TX | 1568 |
| | Eileen Dai | TX | 1551 |
| | Megan Lee | WA | 1537 |
| | Ellen Xiang | TX | 1505 |
| U-12 Girls | Alena Kuzniatsova | NY | 1762 |
| | Darrian Robinson | NY | 1664 |
| | Kathleen Zhou | NJ | 1637 |
| | Helen Chu | TX | 1629 |
| | Eve Litvak | NJ | 1624 |
| U-14 Girls | Karsten McVay | NJ | 2005 |
| | Anjali Datta | TX | 1901 |
| | Gayatri Vempati | TX | 1879 |
| | Yang Dai | VA | 1851 |
| U-16 Girls | Alisa Melekhina | PA | 2104 |
| | Medina Parrilla | NY | 1965 |
| | Abby Marshall | VA | 1946 |
| | Louiza Livschitz | CA | 1946 |
| | Julia Kerr | NY | 1943 |
| | Marina Asami | CA | 1912 |
| | Courtney Jamison | TX | 1899 |
| U-18 Girls | Tatev Abrahamyan | CA | 2338 |
| | Laura Ross | NY | 2248 |
| | Hana Itkis | NJ | 2153 |
| | Katharine Pelletier | NY | 2117 |

2005 World Youth - Third Place Ratings

| Age | Category | Rating |
|----------|----------|--------|
| Under-8 | Boys | 1501 |
| Under-10 | Boys | 1715 |
| Under-12 | Boys | 2058 |
| Under-14 | Boys | 2243 |
| Under-16 | Boys | 2267 |
| Under-18 | Boys | 2512 |
| | | |
| Under-8 | Girls | 1204 |
| Under-10 | Girls | 1409 |
| Under-12 | Girls | 1636 |
| Under-14 | Girls | 1913 |
| Under-16 | Girls | 1949 |
| Under-18 | Girls | 2159 |

For additional information contact US Chess Scholastic Director Jerry Nash.



The United States Chess Federation (USCF), founded in 1939, serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and is now headquartered in Crossville, Tennessee. USCF is devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. It promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, and as a means for the improvement of society. The USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization with over 80,000 members.

For additional information on the USCF see: <http://www.uschess.org>.