Golden Isles Chess Association

The Golden Isles Chess Association is a not-for-profit organization that is associated with the United States Chess Federation. The association holds four tournaments each school year where the winning teams are then eligible to go on to a state competition. Trophies are also awarded by the association to individual players in each division for their success.

Our Service

Our Service to the Golden Isles Chess Association was to provide help with setup and take down for the final tournament of the season. We learned much of the psychology behind the sport of chess through just how precise everything had to be, even down to placement of tables and the direction of the boards. We also decided to participate first hand in the tournament to gain the whole experience.

The Tournament

The day of the tournament, all of our service-learning group, including Dr. Carla Bluhm participated in our own category of the chess tournament. After helping with registration, we all took our seats to compete. We applied the service we were doing directly to what we had learned about the psychology of sport in class. We were surprised to find how much technique and intelligence really go in to a game of chess! We even got to experience our own award ceremony and the feelings of winning and losing!

Reflections

A common theme in competing in the tournament and providing this service was fear of the unknown but as the following quotes show, we all enjoyed our service and learned pretty quickly!

- “The day was a success, we all had fun, we learned a lot, and overall it was a very pleasant experience.” –Melinda Strickland
- “If you do your best against a player with more skill then you won whether the score says so or not. Acknowledging the other player as winning is a common practice and should always be performed graciously. Chess teaches character building that carries on into all walks of life and is a sport that could be enjoyed by all.” -Richard Tucker
- “When Saturday morning rolled around and we were signing in the young and ambitious children, I started getting excited about playing again.” -Donna Thompson-Shead