

About the Director

NM Lou Mercuri

- ◆ USCF Rating 2375 and U.S. Life Master (Highest rating achieved: 2404/Senior Master)
- ◆ Defeated World Champion Anatoly Karpov in exhibition play in 1990
- ◆ Awarded International title of FIDE Trainer at Turin Olympics in May 2006 (awarded to certified trainers rated over 2300)
- ◆ Coached numerous Massachusetts players and teams at National Scholastic Championships
- ◆ Teaches scholastic chess programs in Acton, Framingham, Concord, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Sudbury, Wellesley, and Weston
- ◆ Students have won State Scholastic Singles Championships and a National Championship
- ◆ Writer and publisher of theoretical opening articles, chess publications, and reviewer for Chess Horizons



Special Features of the Sessions led by Lou Mercuri

- ◆ Small group training sessions
- ◆ Tournament preparation
- ◆ Team problem-solving competitions
- ◆ 40-problem tactics test
- ◆ Book prizes
- ◆ Student evaluations and recommendations
- ◆ Group analysis of students' best games
- ◆ New training manuals for each session
- ◆ Blitz chess tournament
- ◆ At least 4 staff trainers per session

What Parents and Students Have to Say

My kids love Mr. Mercuri's chess camp very much. No doubt that Mr. Mercuri has a lot of chess teaching experience, but he also creates a very fun, friendly, and encouraging learning environment though the games themselves are quite competitive. I also appreciate receiving the very detailed camp reports in the end, which list my kids' strength and focus areas as a guidance for their further development after the camp.

Bin Xiang, Parent of Andrew and Connor Liu

Since moving to Massachusetts, my kids have not missed a single week of Lou's Summer All Star Chess program. their favorite summer camp experience. They love the tournaments, blitz chess, and Crystal Lake. Lou is a gifted coach who helps each child discover and develop their individual chess playing style.

Eric Fauman, parent of Jacob, Charlie, Alex, and Ben

Sophia has participated in Lou's All-Star Summer Chess program for the last three years, and she will be back again this summer. She loves the instruction, the other campers, the blitz and puzzle competitions, and even the ping pong. She found a good level of competition there when she started, and she continues to be challenged by the level of play even as she has improved steadily throughout the years. Great program!

Jeremy Rosenholtz, parent of Sophia

This camp is great fun for all ages, both of my kids enjoy the instruction, the games, and the fun recess activities during the camp week. Best chess camp in town!

Julia Abramovich, parent of Jacob and Kendra

Lou's chess camp is extremely fun and exciting. I got a chance to play many different people who I hadn't played before and I enjoyed playing blitz at the lake. I cannot wait to go again!

Amy Lei

Lou's All-Star Chess program is one of the few summer programs that my son is eager to attend year after year. Kids at all levels of skill play and learn in a fun atmosphere. My son truly enjoys Lou's warm teaching style and his enthusiasm for the game.

Nikki Moore, parent of Aidan

My son and daughter have been going to Lou Mercuri's chess camp for at least five years. They said: "Lou makes learning fun and is passionate about chess. He helped me to improve. There are a lot of different levels, and I can face opponents at my level."

Francoise Kohler, parent of Annabel and Arnaud

My son Ryan said his chess.com rating was around 1300 for a long time. Until your camp this summer (2025), he broke into 1600-1700. He made a jump after that week of chess. So, I really want to thank you.

Hsin Pei Shih, Parent of Ryan

U.S. Life Master and FIDE Trainer

Lou Mercuri's 24th Annual Summer All Star Chess Training School 2026

*For Serious Young Chess Players Between the
Ages of 8 and 16 Who Want to Make
Considerable Progress in Improving the Focus
of Their Game*



**Session I: August 3-7, 2026 at the
Emerson Community Center, 51 Pettee
Street, Newton Upper Falls**

**Session II: August 10-14, 2026 at the
Emerson Community Center, 51 Pettee
Street, Newton Upper Falls**

Please register online at

newtonma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30297

*The program is offered through the Newton Parks and
Recreation Department in cooperation with Lou
Mercuri's All Star Chess Training School.*



From the Director, U.S. Life Master Lou Mercuri



We are pleased to once again partner with the Newton Parks and Recreation Department to bring All Star Chess to the Emerson Community Center in Newton in the summer of 2026.

After many years of working successfully with chess students on an individual or group basis, I am committed to continuing a training program for young players that will provide an environment conducive to growth and improvement in chess. The emphasis is on specific improvement and feedback for each player, to give every player a chance to grow and improve in chess. Our players continue to learn, develop, and compete successfully for state and national scholastic championships. We continue to offer new training sessions, materials, and topics for each of the weeks. Each session is different and new material is presented.

Our program has attracted students who are eager to learn, and many have played in rated tournaments. There is no minimum or maximum recommended rating, but the general range of abilities is from players just starting tournaments to players in the top 50 for their age in the US.

Due to limited enrollment capacity, we expect the 2026 sessions to fill quickly. Please consider registering at your earliest convenience to ensure a spot.

Please feel free to contact me at (781) 373-1375, or at loumercuri2@aol.com for further information about the program.

Program Details

When

Session I

August 3-7, 2026, 9:00am – 3:45pm

Session II

August 10-14, 2026, 9:00am – 3:45pm

Different instructional material will be presented at each session.

Where

Session I and Session II

Emerson Community Center

51 Pettee Street, Newton Upper Falls, MA

The site is located minutes from Route 95/128 and MBTA Green Line service is nearby. The site is handicapped-accessible.

Comfortable on-site air-conditioned surroundings include open gym and table tennis. Optional activities include use of outdoor parks, playgrounds, and basketball court.

Cost

\$475 per student for Newton residents

\$490 per student for non-Newton residents



Registration

Registration is open to

Newton residents starting January 28, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Non-Newton residents starting March 1, 2026

Register online at

newtonma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30297

For more information about the program visit [All Star Chess Training | City of Newton, MA](http://newtonma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30297)

Please note children younger than 7th grade need to be signed in and out by an adult each day.

City of Newton Parks and Recreation Department
246 Dudley Road
Newton, MA 02495
617-796-1500

