

# Las Gatos High Chess Whiz to Compete Nationally

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by Sheila Sanchez



Los Gatos Patch Whiz Kid Sudarshan Seshadri, 17, will be representing the state in the upcoming Denker Tournament of High School Champions Aug. 4-7 in Vancouver, WA.

Seshadri, who's a junior at Los Gatos High School, tied for first place in the high school section in the April 22 CalChess Super State Championship. He's been playing competitive chess for 10 years, but began learning about the game at age 3. His first chess tournament was while in second grade, according to proud mom Suman Seshadri.

"What a proud achievement for a Los Gatan and a Californian," Suman Seshadri noted.

The 2012 U.S. Open chess tourney fields high school state champions from across the United States. The winner will receive the title of Denker High School Champion of Champions. In case of ties, co-champions will be recognized.

The "Denker" is considered a prestigious event held in memory of Grandmaster Arnold Denker who helped found it and who helped support it financially for more than 20 years, according to the United States Chess Federation.

Scholarships totaling \$2,200 are now awarded to the top five finishers, through the generosity of Denker's son, Mitchell, the U.S. Chess Trust and the National Scholastic Chess Foundation.



Seshadri has also been volunteering as a chess coach and mentor for the R.J. Fisher Middle School Chess Club, which caters to Los Gatos elementary and middle school students.

Dad Sessa Seshadri is also a good chess player, said Suman Seshadri and Los Gatos dad Jon Frankle should receive some of the credit for Sudarshan's success, since he coached the Blossom Hill Elementary School chess club from second through eighth grade.

