

SAMPLE

A Whole New Deal

Everything old *is* new again...and this time it's bridge. Yes, Bridge. The game your grandparents played 50 years ago. Today's youth are rediscovering the fascinating and complex game of bridge – and it's pulling them away from the television and video games, out of the malls and off the streets.

Atlanta Junior Bridge (AJB), a non-profit organization formed in 2006, has taught more than 1,000 children between the ages of 7 and 17 the rudiments of bridge. AJB holds Georgia Youth State Championships in December and March each year. The first Youth North American Bridge Championships were held in Atlanta July 2008 and over 200 children attended the tournament from 21 states and 3 Canadian provinces. Over \$7,000 in scholarship prizes were awarded to the winners of the National events and the next Youth NABC is in Washington DC in 2009.

When asked why they want to play bridge, these young players tell us it's because the game is fun and that it gives them a chance to hangout and play with their friends. In today's busy world, where many parents struggle to find quality after-school care, bridge provides an opportunity for their children to meet new friends, play a game and talk - all in a safe, controlled environment.

What's more, the game of bridge knows no geographic or socio-economic boundaries. There are no age or gender concerns. No physical or intellectual requirements. Any child can learn and enjoy it.

Bridge also helps surmount generational gaps. One of our parents recently shared how bridge has helped draw her children closer to their family. Along the way, children are improving their concentration, as well as their math, problem solving and logic skills.

According to a study by Dr. Christopher Shaw, students who played bridge scored higher on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills than their non-bridge playing counterparts after 20 months and again after 32 months. In addition, they scored higher in all five subject areas (reading, language, math, science, social studies). It's precisely this brain-building power that led bridge enthusiasts, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett to pledge \$1 million for use in creating a youth bridge program to reach kids in schools nationwide.

Atlanta Junior Bridge is offering a free Beginning Bridge class in February at the Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Club in Norcross.

Location	Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center 7094 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Suite 325 Norcross 30071 770-248-0306
Time	Saturdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Free
Dates	February 7 th through March 28th
Instructor	Gladys Hardcastle gladysh@comcast.net