

2019-2020 Bridge at the Fort Collins Senior Center

Senior Center social membership: \$30/year, 50+. Daily drop-in fee: \$5

Joining the Fort Collins Senior Center provides many benefits to enjoy a variety of activities. Bridge players can enjoy 15% member-discount off of bridge class fees and the Friday non-sanctioned Duplicate Bridge game at noon, play for free at Party Bridge events held Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 pm and Thursday evening at 5:00 and attend the Monday 5:30 pm Bridge Mentoring sessions for free. (Non-members can participate by paying \$5 drop-in fee to play in the Party Bridge games or Bridge Mentoring.) Monday & Tuesday 12:30 pm sanctioned Duplicate Bridge games are not sponsored by the Senior Center. Fees paid at game.

Nila Hobbs, a certified ACBL Teacher and Life Master, teaches Bridge classes. Julie Wertz, a Life Master, also helps with Bridge Mentoring. Nila's philosophy on the different "paths":

1. Bridge Mentoring – place to come to practice concepts learning in classes. Thirty-minute mini lesson then deal and play hands or play pre-set hands from the afternoon Duplicate Game, ask Mentor for help on bidding or playing hand. Focus on applying practices covered in classes. Sometimes back up and bid again to apply concepts and sometimes lay out hand to discuss further. Mondays, 5:30–8:30 pm. Free for Senior Center members or \$5 drop-in fee for others. Come when want, no partner needed.
2. Bridge 1 – Getting Started: foundation class using MiniBridge as technique to get students playing first night. Additional concepts added as more hands played. Some "training wheels" in order to let students proceed. Down road "training wheels" replaced with improved concepts as students learn. Goal: understand basics of working as partnership to win most "tricks" and choices for scoring most points by selecting "target" or "contract" the "attackers" or "declaring side" (pair) will try for (some have a chance of making bonus points), playing each hand, defending by the other side (pair), scoring and beginning to understand some techniques that work better than others. No bidding involved yet. More students practice playing hands outside of class, more will learn and understand. Free software available to help practice. **Blue Chip MiniBridge** (<http://www.bluechipbridge.co.uk/minibrIDGE.htm>) is sponsored by American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and the English Bridge Union. Also, www.ACBL.org, Learn, Play Bridge, MinibrIDGE. One 4-week class in September on Tuesday, 5:30–8:30 pm and one 4-week class in January-February on Wednesday, 12:30-3:30 pm.
3. Bridge 2 through Bridge 6 covers ACBL Bridge Series in the 21st Century. Standard American 5-card major bidding system using latest duplicate bridge ideas and philosophy. Purpose: introduce new player to game of duplicate bridge. Accompanying EZ Deal card decks for pre-set hands to practice teaching points. Also, series complements free software available for students to learn more and practice using same conventions. Bridge 7 uses Seagram books. Books taught are:

Bridge 2 – Bidding in the 21st Century (The Club Series)

Bridge 3 – Play of the Hand in the 21st Century (The Diamond Series)

Bridge 4 – Defense in the 21st Century (The Heart Series)

Bridge 5 – Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century (The Spade Series)

Bridge 6 – More Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century (The Notrump Series)

Bridge 7 – 25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know & 25 More Bridge Conventions You Should Know

No student is expected to pick up everything that will be covered in these materials. Individual progress is based upon each student's background and how many hands they play outside of class...the more they practice and study, the faster they will learn. Each player will pick up concepts that they are "ready for" so get the "ah-ha!" experience because they have struggled with something as they have been playing. Many students return to take the classes multiple times as their knowledge grows and are ready to pick up something new.

(Go to www.ACBL.org, Learn, Play Bridge, Learn to Play Bridge (LTPB). Have two choices: online (interactive, learn-as-you-play web-based program accessible from any device with an internet connection) or Learn to Play Bridge Software that can be downloaded to a PC (uses more classic approach of lessons, exercises and hands). Go back to Learn, Intro to Duplicate, Commonly Used Conventions has some 1-2-page articles on individual conventions – very useful. Also, Bridge Base Online, bridgebase.com.)

4. Bridge R1 & R2 –Beginning Bridge. Start with MiniBridge (above) then cover Bidding (Bridge 2) plus a few additional concepts to get players to the point of playing with others. Will reference "Knack Bridge for Everyone" if may be useful. Wednesday afternoon (not 4th), 12:30-3:30 pm.