



For Immediate Release

**Alec Sjöholm Crowned Youngest Ever
North American SCRABBLE® Champion after
Five-Day Competition in Reno, NV**

Washington youth earns first major title, wins \$10,000

Reno, NV – July 24, 2019 – It took five days and 30 games against top opponents from around the world for 21-year-old student Alec Sjöholm of Lynnwood, WA to qualify for the best-of-three finals at the 2019 North American SCRABBLE Championship in Reno, NV. Then in a series of nail-biting one-hour games streamed live at twitch.tv/ggslive with expert commentary, Sjöholm beat fellow contender Carl Johnson (37) of Portland, OR in three games: 477–317, 402–508, 445–415. Sjöholm claimed the Championship title as the youngest player ever, beating 1996 champion Adam Logan’s long-standing record by a mere six days.

In the final games, Sjöholm demonstrated his mastery of the North American SCRABBLE Players Association Word List 2018 Edition with such words as: PLAYGOER (a frequent theatre attendee), MOONSAIL (a sail above a skysail), and THEORBO (a large lute).

The North American SCRABBLE Championship, the 30th since it was founded in 1978 as the National SCRABBLE Championship, brought together 280 elite SCRABBLE competitors from Australia, England, Thailand, the U.A.E., and Canadian provinces and American states from sea to sea. The event took place at the Reno Ballroom in Reno, NV from Saturday, July 20th, to Wednesday, July 24th, with extensive live online coverage including videos, photos, and statistics. Participants played in five skill-based divisions for a total of \$40,900 in prizes, of which \$10,000 went to the Champion and \$4,000 to the runner-up.

Sjöholm told online commentator and past Champion Conrad Bassett-Bouchard “Winning a national championship is important to me. I’m not old enough to need money, so the \$10,000 doesn’t mean as much as the title.”

The North American SCRABBLE Championship is organized annually by and held under the auspices of the North American SCRABBLE Players Association (NASPA).

Trademarked in 1948, SCRABBLE® is the classic crossword game loved by millions around the world. There are 40 million leisure SCRABBLE® players in Canada and the U.S. alone.

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About NASPA

NASPA, the North American SCRABBLE Players Association, is a nonprofit corporation incorporated in 2009 in Texas to be the governing body for competitive SCRABBLE play in the United States and Canada, and is based in Dallas and Toronto. Its thousands of players compete at hundreds of local clubs and regional tournaments each week to earn the experience necessary to excel at a top level. NASPA is a licensed user of Hasbro's SCRABBLE trademark.

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**For coverage of the North American SCRABBLE® Championships, please visit:
<http://bit.ly/nsc2019>**

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