VISION
To strengthen the character of our community.

MISSION
To impact the lives of young people in the greater Chicago area by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

First Tee’s Nine Core Values
Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Confidence, Responsibility, Perseverance, Courtesy, Judgment

First Tee’s Nine Healthy Habits
PHYSICAL: Energy, Play, Safety
EMOTIONAL: Vision, Mind, Family
SOCIAL: Friends, School, Community

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO
For twenty years, First Tee Greater Chicago has been serving tens of thousands of area youth annually through our on-course, in-school, and after-school programming. If you have been with us for a while, you know that our educational programs are about so much more than golf. We aim to build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices so that our participants will carry with them the lessons learned from our programming long after they leave us. We want them to be good students and good citizens. To lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives.

My goal as First Tee Greater Chicago’s new leader is to embrace our past while effecting meaningful change as we head into this new decade. While COVID-19 has brought unforeseen challenges in 2020, one thing remains true: we are maintaining a relentless focus on our mission. We are managing through this crisis and will emerge ready to continue our transformational impact on our youth. Perhaps the most critical component of that is our new capital project: an opportunity for us to build and operate our own facility in Waveland Park, adjacent to the Sydney R. Marovitz lakefront course in Chicago.

As we reflect on this past year of transition and renewal for First Tee Greater Chicago, I would also like to acknowledge how grateful we are for each of you. I am honored to work with so many coaches, volunteers, families, and supporters who help us every day to fulfill our mission. Each of you plays a pivotal role in helping us to impact the lives of Chicago’s youth. It really does take a village. Thank you for being a supporter of our mission.

Lea Jesse
Chief Executive Officer
First Tee Greater Chicago
OUR 2019 IMPACT

50,000 participants annually

24 golf facilities

100 elementary schools

90 parks and youth development centers

66 coaches and volunteers in 2019

17 coaches

49 volunteers

5 Chicagoland counties are included in our programs

Cook County
Lake County
McHenry County
DuPage County
Kane County

43% minority LSE*

34% female LSE*

87% minority in NSP**

84% free/reduced lunch in NSP**

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Ranking Among Our First Tee Peer Group
Met New York, LA, Houston, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Dallas, Atlanta

#1 in after-school programming (14,200 kids served)

#2 in open enrollment registrations (2,427)

#2 in program locations (24)

* LSE = Life Skills Experience  ** NSP = Chicago Public Schools participating in the National School Program
Spotlight school: Chavez Multicultural Arts Center

Situated in Chicago’s Back of the Yards neighborhood, Chavez, serving mostly working-class families, has become the model for what a successful school partnership looks like. We work hand-in-hand with the Chavez staff to give students the opportunity to step outside the four walls of their school and explore golf fundamentals at Marquette Park, have lunch with mentors, and meet PGA Tour players at the BMW Championship. Special congratulations to Chavez 8th grader and avid golfer, Jose, for earning his Daniel Murphy Scholarship this year!

First Tee DRIVE

This fundraising program aims to expose more kids to golf and its inherent values. By removing barriers like lack of transportation and financial resources, DRIVE funding allows us to bring programs to underserved schools and recreation centers throughout Chicagoland. Youth who never otherwise would be exposed to golf can learn the game and the core values that come with it.

CAROL RHOADES

“This program has provided the platform for an entire generation of youth to enhance their life through golf. It offers access to all populations of youth, but excellent instruction, while emphasizing the inherent values that golf provides. The lifelong learning environment prepares youth with character development that will enhance the quality of their lives and help shape our future.”

Rhoades is a member of the Professional Golfers’ Association of America (PGA) and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our participants when it comes to teaching the game of golf and the life lessons it inherently holds. In 2019, Rhoades was honored as one of the “Best Teachers in State” by Golf Digest, one of only three women in Illinois to make the list!

First Tee Junior Golf and Life Skills Experience

First Tee Junior Golf and Life Skills Experience was developed by experts to promote positive youth development through golf. Caring adults, who have been formally trained by First Tee, act as coaches. Young people learn the fundamentals of the swing, rules of the game, etiquette, on-course play and get the chance to play in competition. This helps them learn life skills like interpersonal communication, self-management, goal setting, and resiliency.

Programs take place at golf courses and ranges across Chicagoland and are open to boys and girls from ages 7 to 18.

First Tee Greater Chicago also manages Junior Development Leagues and the Illinois PGA Junior League, an affiliation of the PGA of America.

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Students from Chavez Multicultural Arts Center on the golf course.
Kids enjoying a day at Countryside Golf Course with Coach Herles.

First Tee National School Program

First Tee National School Program introduces the game of golf, the Nine Core Values and Nine Healthy Habits to elementary schools through their physical education classes. Using modified equipment and targets, First Tee trained teachers help students learn the game and its values.

We are proud to partner with over 100 Chicago area schools, including 91 CPS elementary schools, many of which are located in West, Southwest and South side neighborhoods.

Roberto Rosas

“As someone who was just learning the language, First Tee instilled in me values of perseverance and confidence. An important lesson golf taught me is that while we may want to put away the clubs every time we can’t figure out our swing, it’s important to stay composed, trust the process, and stay committed to achieving your end goal. It also taught me that hard work can help me overcome most circumstances. You’ll only get as much out of it as you put in. For me, there was a certain freedom with only being defined by my own score.”

Statistics reflect only schools in the city of Chicago receiving the National School Program from First Tee Greater Chicago.
**Golf to Paradise First Tee Champions Challenge:**

**Naples FL, February 14 – 17, 2019**

The Chubb Classic and First Tee Naples/Collier were the hosts for this year’s annual competition. 12 chapters and 24 junior golfers were treated like the pros during their four-day, three-night stay in sunny Naples, FL. Participants learned the value of healthy competition and honed their networking and communication skills. They also participated in press conferences and exclusive short game clinics hosted by professionals in the industry.

**First Tee Greater Chicago participants:**

Brendan K. Cleary, 15, is a sophomore in the honors program at Lane Tech College Prep High School in Chicago. His favorite subject is math, and he would like to become an engineer or accountant after he graduates from college. Brendan has been playing golf since the age of five. He started with First Tee Greater Chicago at the PLAYer Level and has risen all the way to Eagle Level.

“I would not be the golfer I am today if it were not for the guidance of First Tee.”

Ryan Meyer, 15, is a sophomore at Saint Ignatius College Prep. He has been involved with First Tee Greater Chicago for over five years. He started in a summer program at Robert A. Black Golf Course and has advanced through all five levels from PLAYer to Eagle. He currently plays in First Tee Greater Chicago’s high school league at Sydney R. Marovitz Golf Course.

“First Tee has given me the skills to excel at the game of golf and allowed me to participate on my high school golf team and play in several IJGA tournaments.”

**2019 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

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**Drive, Chip and Putt at Augusta: April 7, 2019**

This competition is held before the Masters Tournament every year at the legendary Augusta National Golf Club. Eighty kids get to drive, chip and putt on a course most adults could only dream of playing.

**First Tee Greater Chicago participant:**

Luciano Giangrossi, 9, a third grader at Washington Elementary in Evanston won the trophy for best chip shot and finished tied for fifth overall in the 7-9 category. He has been playing golf since he was two and a half. He is currently part of First Tee at Foss Park in North Chicago.

“First Tee has given me the skills to excel at the game of golf and allowed me to participate on my high school golf team and play in several IJGA tournaments.”

**DANIEL SCHOMBERT**

“I have volunteered with First Tee for ten years. I volunteer because I believe in the values presented and I believe deeply in the potential of young people. I am an ordinary person and an ordinary golfer with a thankful heart. I have golfed since I was a child and I have been involved in youth organizations most of my adult life. It is with gratitude that I serve. Gratitude for the game and gratitude for the young people.”
The purpose of this academy is to develop and educate participants in life skills development through championship golf, college prep and dorm living, and career exploration. Many develop lifelong friendships. Just 96 teens are chosen from First Tee chapters across the country for this unique opportunity.

Kat Sheirok, 16, is a junior at Trinity High School in River Forest, IL, where she’s been on the varsity golf team at her school since freshman year. Active in First Tee Greater Chicago for seven years, Kat participates as a junior coach and volunteers in several chapter events.

“I am so excited to have been chosen for this opportunity. Since being a participant in First Tee my coaches, teachers, family and friends have helped me to strengthen my self-confidence.”

Six First Tee Greater Chicago participants headed to “The Big Easy” to compete in First Tee Greater New Orleans’ fourth annual national tournament. This event is open to any Birdie+ level participant in First Tee, and has had over 150 participants and 200 parents from 13 chapters attend in the past two years. Boys and girls competed in separate divisions.

Ahmad, 15, has been participating in First Tee Greater Chicago for eight years. A Sophomore at Mount Carmel High School, he is a member of the Varsity golf team, speech team, and robotics team. Ahmad has played on the Varsity golf team since his Freshman year. Ahmad Raoul

1. Ahmad Raoul, 14 - South Shore/Jackson Park
2. Aidan Vazquez, 16 - Glenwoodie
3. Andrew Cadiena, 16 - Foss Park
4. Madison Miller, 14 - South Shore/Jackson Park
5. Mallorie Clifton, 16 - Cog Hill
6. Tristan Knoll, 13 - Countryside G.C.

“I use the First Tee’s core value ‘Perseverance’ on the golf course. If I am having a bad round, I do not let a score, shot, or hole mess up my game. I have to persevere. In school, I use perseverance to stay engaged and work hard to maintain my 3.8 GPA.”

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On August 14, First Tee Greater Chicago transported 65 of its junior participants to the 2019 BMW Championship at Medinah County Club. The free field trip allowed all participants to witness the PGA Tour up close and personal. Participants were able to see stars like Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, and Jon Rahm from just a few feet away, and received autographs alongside the practice green.

First Tee Greater Chicago participants:

Two of our participants, Annika Northey and David Blackmon, were selected as junior course reporters for the day. They received behind-the-scenes access to the media center, stood atop the post-round interview podium, and had the chance to interview 2018 BMW Champion Keegan Bradley.

A large group of First Tee kids, coaches and volunteers had a fun day together at Medinah Country Club.
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<th>First Tee Program Sites</th>
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<th>City, State, Zip</th>
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<td>1  5 Iron Golf</td>
<td>609 N. Dearborn St, Chicago, IL 60610</td>
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<td>2  Barrington Park District</td>
<td>235 Lions Dr, Barrington, IL 60010</td>
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<td>3  Brae Loch Golf Club</td>
<td>33600 U.S.-45, Graylake, IL 60030</td>
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<td>4  Buffalo Grove Golf Dome</td>
<td>801 McHenry Rd, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089</td>
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<td>5  Canal Shores Golf Club</td>
<td>1030 Central St, Evanston, IL 60201</td>
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<td>6  Chapel Hill Country Club</td>
<td>2500 N. Chapel Hill Rd, McHenry, IL 60051</td>
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<td>7  Cog Hill Country Club</td>
<td>12244 Archer Ave., Lemont, IL 60439</td>
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<td>8  Countryside Golf Club</td>
<td>20800 W. Hawley St, Mundelein, IL 60060</td>
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<td>9  Diversey Driving Range</td>
<td>141 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60657</td>
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<td>10 Douglas Park Golf Course</td>
<td>1401 S. Sacramento Dr, Chicago IL 60623</td>
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<td>11 Foss Park Golf Course</td>
<td>3124 Argonne Dr, North Chicago, IL 60644</td>
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<td>12 Fountain Hills Golf Club</td>
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<td>13 Glenwoodie Golf Course</td>
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<td>14 Greenshore Golf Course</td>
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<td>15 Harborside International</td>
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<td>17 Links and Tees Golf Dome</td>
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<td>18 Marquette Park Golf Course</td>
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<td>19 Renwood Country Club</td>
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<td>20 Robert A. Black Golf Club</td>
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<td>21 South Shore Golf Course</td>
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<td>22 Swing Masters Golf</td>
<td>825 Tyrrell Rd., Gilberts, IL 60136</td>
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<td>23 Sydney Marovitz Golf Course</td>
<td>3600 N. Recreation Dr, Chicago 60613</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 White Pines Golf Club</td>
<td>500 W. Jefferson St., Bensenville, IL 60064</td>
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First Tee Greater Chicago, a 501 (c) 3 organization, is dedicated to impacting the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. Founded in 2000, First Tee Greater Chicago reaches young people through its core program, the Life Skills Experience, as well as First Tee National School and DRIVE programs.

First Tee Greater Chicago is currently reaching 50,000 area youth on an annual basis through its on-course, in-school and after-school programming and its partnerships with other community-based, youth-serving organizations.