



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Building Game Changers





OUR STAFF

Todd Krieger
Chief Executive Officer

John Page
Program Director

Heather Rupp
Operations Director



Golf is like no other game that we play as both children and adults. As Arnold Palmer said so perfectly, "Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening – and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented."

It is precisely because golf tests us in so many ways that it is such an amazing platform to teach young people vital life skills that will empower them through all of life's difficult challenges. And, unfortunately, those challenges are presenting themselves earlier and earlier in our kids' lives. The pressure to fit in, to do well academically, or to be accepted can be daunting and overwhelming.

At First Tee–Greater Detroit we know this, and we are proud of the experiences we offered in 2021 that helped 437 young people develop skills and traits such as goal setting, resiliency, self confidence, and an appreciation for diversity in an incredibly fun, safe, and supportive environment. But none of this would be possible without the support of our 76 outstanding volunteer coaches and our community of generous donors. We are deeply appreciative of the support which allows us to impact and inspire our First Tee–Greater Detroit participants.

We will continue to expand our work in 2022. We are extending our presence through a new location at the Durfee Innovation Society that will have a Trackman golf simulator and putting area. This will allow us to offer golf, and our life skills curriculum, during all 12 months of the year – even during cold Michigan winters. In addition, we are beginning the process of fundraising for a state-of-the-art learning center to extend the capabilities of our program and bring golf to an increasing number of young people in the Greater Detroit area. We will also continue our involvement with the Rocket Mortgage Classic and once again host the 100 Hole Golf Marathon at Chandler Park Golf Course.

The future for First Tee–Greater Detroit is incredibly bright and there are so many ways that everyone can be part of it. Volunteer to be a coach and work directly with our kids, spread the word to a family who may have children who could benefit from our program, or make a contribution to the program that will allow us to impact more children in more locations.

For the latest program news, please visit us online at www.FirstTeeGreaterDetroit.org and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Krieger".

Todd Krieger
Chief Executive Officer

2021

YEAR IN REVIEW

OUR MISSION

To impact, influence, and inspire the lives of young people in the Greater Detroit area by providing educational programs that build character, promote healthy choices, and instill life enhancing values through the game of golf.

619

REGISTRATIONS

Participants at golf courses, Boysville Gymnasium with PAL, BuildUP STEAM Workshops, and clinics!

1,375

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Our volunteer coaches attend classes, workshops, special events and golf with the kids!

437

PARTICIPANTS

76

COACHES

43

CLASS SESSIONS

205

BRAND NEW TO THE PROGRAM

17

CERTIFIED TO A NEW LEVEL

OUR PARTICIPANTS

65%

IDENTIFY AS NON-WHITE

40%

FEMALE



TESTIMONIALS

“First Tee–Greater Detroit is an amazing organization. My kids love going. They have participated in other youth golf classes and they both love First Tee ... they not only learn to play golf, but also etiquette on and off the golf course. This is an amazing well-rounded program. Coaches are very approachable and fun and great instructors ... and of course you cannot beat the price we pay for the kids to play. Thank you so much First Tee–Greater Detroit and all coaches and staff for your outstanding work.”

– **Alexandra Berry**

“First Tee–Greater Detroit has been and continues to be an amazing program for my kids. The coaches are terrific and work with the kids not only on appropriate skill-based golf techniques but also on sportsmanship and etiquette beyond the golf course, all while making every lesson fun for the kids! Would highly recommend The First Tee to anyone looking to introduce their kids to, or build upon their kids’ skill in the game of golf!”

– **Jessica Roth**



AT GREEN GRASS FACILITIES

**Beech Woods
Southfield**

PAR & BIRDIE LEVEL | 3 classes
22 registrations

**Belle Isle
Detroit**

21 registrations | 2 classes

**Chandler Park Golf Course
Detroit**

46 registrations | 3 classes

**Lakes of Taylor
Taylor**

7 registrations | 1 class

**Rackham Golf Course
Huntington Woods**

198 registrations | 7 classes

**Rammer Golf Club
Sterling Heights**

48 registrations | 3 classes

**Rouge Park Golf Course
Detroit**

67 registrations | 3 classes





100 HOLE GOLF MARATHON

September 20th, 2021

11.5 HOURS

1,717 HOLES

1 HOLE-IN-ONE

\$31,928 RAISED



FIRST TEE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

4

NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERS

100

YOUTH SERVED

FIRST TEE SCHOOL PROGRAM

33

SCHOOLS

11,000

STUDENTS



ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

Putting clinic for 13 of our participants with PGA Tour Professionals Webb Simpson and Brendan Todd.



The driving range exhibition put on by PGA Professionals Cameron Champ, Joseph Bramlett and Doc Redman included a long drive contest and was a huge hit!

“FAN ZONE” TENT

Kids had the opportunity to play with the First Tee–Greater Detroit Plinko Board and earn prizes! Staff and volunteers answered questions about our programming and becoming a volunteer coach.

CMU GIRLS GOLF CLINIC

We partnered with the Central Michigan University Women's Golf Team to run a two-day clinic in September. Our participants were able to learn from some of the best golfers in the state by participating in their favorite drills and learning their routines. They also played six holes of alternate shot on the golf course. The clinic taught our attendees what it take to be a high-level, competitive golfer and showcased the opportunities available to girls in our program.



JOE HOOKS CLINIC

John Shippen Invitational participant and professional golfer, Joe Hooks led a clinic at the Royal Oak Golf Center for 14 of our participants. He talked about his experience as a golf professional and provided some golf basics like set-up and grip position. Joe also demonstrated different ball flights.





DETROIT PAL

Little Putters | 2 classes, 35 registrations
PLAYer | 4 classes, 75 registrations



DURFEE INNOVATION SOCIETY

Homework & Hitting
7 (one hours classes)
36 registrations

BuildUP STEAM
3 workshops, 41 registrations



Thank You

To Our Donors for Their Support



“

I like First Tee because we get to learn to play golf! And I learned that it was possible to make a career out of golf.”

– Ryan

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Hassan Ajami
Hussein Ajami
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Marlowe Alter
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“ I like First Tee because
 the coaches teach us
 about the rules of golf,
 and I get to go to special
 events like the CMU Girl's
 Golf Clinic! ”
 – Evalyn

Our Coaches

LEVEL III CERTIFIED

John Page (Program Director)

LEVEL II CERTIFIED

Alex Dunckel

Heather Rupp (Director of Operations)

Maxwell White

Darron Merritt

PLAYer Level

Alan McArthur
Anthony Shrug-a-Blinn
Anthony Voiles
Arik Greer
Arya Goel
Ben Koeske
Ben Roshak
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Brendan Connors
Brendan Dolan
Brett Dryer
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Christopher Weir
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David Vale
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Evan Mollenkamp
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Grant Haefner
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Jim Colson
Jim Powell
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Khya Calhoun
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Lee Stevens
Luisa Garcia
Luis Zambrano

Luke Drieborg
Mackenzie Smith
Mariam Share
Mark Franks
Mark Zapico
Markus Richardson
Mary Ellen Paczkowski
Mary Ann Lievois
Michael Earle
Mike Bazzi
Nancy Darnell
Nick Baldus
Patrick Emerson
Patrick Mallon
Pete Hermann
Phillip Conrad
Rita Siedlaczek
Ronnie Keener
Roy Vultaggio
Thomas Henry
Thomas Machasic
Timothy Symons
Tommy Cataldo



My son has been in First Tee for almost 6 years now and he loves it!! The staff has always been great, and they do a great job with the kids making sure they get to have great experiences with golf!! ”

– Ryan R Brown



They provide the best program in the area for kids that are interested in golf. Lessons go beyond the golf course; kids will use these in everyday life.”

–Hassan Ajami



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