

Scorecard

The promise we make, and how we deliver it:

First Tee is a youth development organization that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges.

By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum, we create active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do.



A Message from our Executive Director - Jessani Johnson



Welcome to our first, First Tee – Central Coast Newsletter! This quarterly newsletter is intended to keep you updated on all things going on with our chapter including upcoming events, opportunities for our participants, how you can help, program updates, spotlight on participants and more. I hope you enjoy it and I thank you for your involvement in our chapter in whatever capacity that is. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, coach, or have a child in our program...we appreciate you!

2020 was my first official year as Executive Director and I was faced with challenges I could never have predicted but every step of the way I was touched by the outpouring of support

from our families, community, volunteers and our amazing staff. I always welcome your feedback and love hearing from you. I encourage you to reach out to me anytime. Thank you for being a part of our First Tee – Central Coast family!

A Message from our Program Director - Billy Gibbs, PGA



Hello Central Coast "First Tee's". My name is Billy Gibbs and I am the Program Director for our First Tee Chapter, as well as coach to many of you. It is such a pleasure having all of you as part of our First Tee family. Your coaches all have great things to say about how the winter session is going so far, and we couldn't be more proud of your efforts and accomplishments. It is so awesome to be able to get you out to the program sites every week, despite the current challenges we are facing. We are truly grateful for all your

support and the success of our program. It is our hope to continue this great journey of exploring golf and life skills together. I want to thank you for bringing so much joy into my life!

Participant Spotlight: Meet Claire Alford

Claire has been with our chapter for seven years. She is 17 and is a senior at Righetti High School where she is captain of the Girls Golf Team. She is also a First Tee Mentor Coach with our chapter at Blacklake Golf Course and has put more than 370 hours of volunteer time in. Claire is a great example of a participant who has taken advantage of all that First Tee has to offer, applying for and being accepted to several National First Tee Opportunities. While I'm sure they were all rewarding experiences I would guess that getting to represent our chapter, playing in the PGA PURE Championship at Pebble Beach in 2019, partnering with Jay Haas had to be right up there at the top of the list of highlights of her life! I know it was extremely impactful to me just to get to go up there and watch her play. Seeing her interviewed on national television and getting to witness how she handled all of the attention and pressure with ease and grace will forever remain etched in my mind. Claire's most recent National First Tee honor was she was selected as the #1 finalist for the Coca-Cola America's Future opportunity. She was chosen out of thousands of qualified First Tee entrants from all over the world. As the winner she was the recipient of a \$5,000 academic grant for college next year!



Q & A with Claire:

How has your First Tee experience impacted your life off the golf course?

First Tee has taught me crucial goal-setting skills, as well as skills to persevere when I reach obstacles. I now know how to set academic goals, see them through, and ask for help when I need it. These skills have carried over to my leadership capabilities as well. The values of responsibility, respect, and confidence I learned at First Tee have helped me as the president of the Culture Community and Cuisine Club at my high school, where I have led my peers in completing numerous community service projects.

What do you have to say about your experience participating in National First Tee Opportunities?

The First Tee National Participant Opportunities provide endless opportunities for growth. Meeting coaches and participants from all over the nation provides a new perspective, and being in a new place helped me explore possibilities for my future. Also, the opportunities are great preparation for college and beyond in that participants learn to be responsible for themselves and work together to make the experience fun!

What impact has being a First Tee Junior Mentor Coach had on your life?

Being a First Tee Mentor coach, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, has continued to prove the profound effects that mentorship can have on youth. As a participant myself, I have learned how to be a responsible, kind, and professional young person by learning from my First Tee mentors. As a coach, seeing younger participants have that same growth is amazing. The participants are always excited to learn new things, make friends, and stay focused on their goals. I love hearing about the great aspirations of my participants: I know they are going to be the leaders of the future!

What would you say to people that think First Tee is only for young kids or beginners?

First Tee is 100% for all ages! The First Tee coaches provide valuable insight that improves my golf game every week. Each drill we do has different levels of difficulty, allowing golfers of all skill levels to push themselves and improve. Also, the values learned through First Tee are life-changing for teenagers. The First Tee showed me how to be proactive and use my determination for good. The encouragement and support through First Tee helps teenagers make their dreams a reality, whether academic, career, or community-based.

Participant Spotlight: Meet Ben Feldman



Ben Feldman is a Senior at Arroyo Grande High School. He has been with our chapter for 13 years and was a part of our chapter in our earliest stages! Ben plays for his HS golf team of which he's been the captain for the past 2 years. Ben applied for and was accepted for several National First Tee Opportunities and attended the National Leadership & Life Skills Academy in 2019.

Ben was chosen for, and would have competed in, the 2020 PGA PURE Championship but due to Covid the juniors were not able to participate in that event. I'm sure that was heartbreaking for Ben (I know it was for our FTCC team) but he handled this disappointment with grace. Ben is the recipient of a \$1000 First Tee Academic Scholarship to be used towards college next year. In his time off the golf course Ben is an avid hiker and he writes and produces music! He has been playing the piano since he was 4, and also plays the violin and clarinet. Ben also volunteers his time as a First Tee Coach Mentor at Blacklake Golf Course and is having quite a positive impact on our younger participants!

Q & A with Ben:

How has your First Tee experience impacted your life off the golf course?

My experiences in the First Tee have made a significant impact on academics. In school, I feel better prepared and focused to take on leadership roles and guide group discussions. Whereas many may feel hesitant to new challenges, The First Tee has taught me to embrace them with confidence and perseverance. Most importantly, my First Tee experiences have helped develop my goal-setting skills, and have taught me the importance of reaching out for help in order to achieve success.

What impact has being a First Tee Junior Mentor Coach had on your life?

Becoming a First Tee junior coach has offered me an alternatively unique perspective on golf. Assisting in leading local programming and mentoring participants has been a tremendous way for me to give back to my community and positively impact the lives of young people. My experiences have also helped strengthen my public speaking and leadership skills. It is a rewarding feeling knowing that while the activities I teach are golf-oriented, the skills and core values embedded can be applied to all areas of life, and will help participants to become successful, well-rounded individuals off the course. For me, golf has become more than just a game.

What impact has your First Tee Coach had on your life?

I have known my Master First Tee Coach Billy Gibbs for nearly 13 years. He has been there every step of the way in watching me grow from a participant to a First Tee junior coach. I have never been able to better connect with a coach than Coach Billy. He is the most genuine, kind-hearted individual I have ever had the pleasure of becoming friends with. I am forever grateful for the knowledge he has shared with me, and the mentorship offered throughout the years. I am proud to say I would not be where I am today, nor achieved the success I have, without the influence of my First Tee coach.

Thank you Claire and Ben for letting us spotlight your amazing accomplishments both on and off the golf course you both are shining examples of what First Tee is all about. We wish you all the best as you graduate High School this spring and head off to college in the fall.

Message from a First Tee Parent: Marni Lynn



First Tee has given my daughter, Thira, so much! From learning foundational golf skills to being mentored by caring coaches and older First Tee participants she can look up to, it has been a rich and rewarding experience. We--a "wounded warrior" military family--are quite grateful for First Tee of the Central Coast. My child benefits from the chance to be outside on the golf course enjoying the sport and learning how the lessons of golf apply to life. Today's lesson with Coach Billy was about judgement. True to form, she took the chance to apply the tips to putting and won a miniature trophy for judging the distance to the hole best and being the closest with her ball. She also thought about Coach Billy's words on the drive home. We had a lively discussion about the importance of making good judgments in all areas of life. Through participation with First Tee, Thira's confidence has improved, she understands the importance of good sportsmanship, and she enjoys the camaraderie and competition with other players. Her words say it best: "First Tee is great! It's fun, makes it easy to play, and gets me outside on the green!" As a parent, I'd like to thank all the First Tee - Central Coast coaches and student golf mentors; the Executive Director, Jessani Johnson; and every donor who makes the sport of golf possible for kids who wouldn't otherwise have the chance to learn the game. Thank you for seeing the immense value in this wonderful organization. Thank you, First Tee!

2021 National Participant Opportunities

If you read about Claire & Ben above you can see the impact these national opportunities can have for the teenagers that participate. There are leadership opportunities, golf opportunities as well as scholarships available for those that stick with the First Tee. Each opportunity has its own set of requirements and I encourage you to look through them and discuss with your kids. Contact your First Tee Coach, Billy Gibbs and or myself if you have questions about eligibility or have interest in applying. In many cases the cost to attend is covered either by First Tee National or by our chapter, with limited cost to the participant and their family. [Click HERE for the 2021 planned opportunities](#) and click on each one for details about eligibility requirements, application due dates etc.

2020 rebrand for First Tee:

Have you noticed the changes? In 2020 the National First Tee went through a major rebrand. Everything we do has stayed the same but everything has a bit of a new look.

They dropped the "The" from our name. So we used be The First Tee of Central Coast (TFTCC) and now we are First Tee - Central Coast (FTCC). Our legal name has been, and still is, Central Coast Junior Golf, Inc so this only affects our DBA name. [Click here](#) to see the rebrand video.

We're Building Game Changers

Kids become a better version of themselves when they have the space to be who they are, surrounded by passionate people who guide them to see what they are capable of. As parents and guardians, you're living this out every day, and we're here to partner with you. Our trained coaches create safe, supportive and empowering environments to help your child(ren) prepare for life ahead, including friendships, school, college and even their careers.

What's Coming Up?

- Spring registration is now open. Click [HERE](#) to see the spring schedule, click [HERE](#) to register now!
- Our First Ever "Piece of the Pie" golf tournament for kids will be held at Monarch Dunes Golf Course on March 28th! We sent an email out to parents about this event and it filled up (60 spots) within 24 hours. We will be planning more of these playing opportunities for our participants. It's a great way to ease into competitive golf in a fun environment for kids of all ages.
- March Madness Golf Club/Equipment Drive. Our First Tee Coach Matt Craddock will come pick up any golf clubs and or equipment you would like to get rid of. Click [HERE](#) to see a flier with all the details.
- Our famous No-Show Golf Tournament is right around the corner. Stay tuned for the brochure and entry information to be posted on the website and mailed to you mid-March!
- Our First Tee Summer Classic... A fundraiser/golf tournament to benefit our chapter. Date is still TBD due to Covid but we hope to hold this event in June or July at San Luis Obispo Country Club. Stay tuned for details on this event.
- **SAVE THE DATE** for our First Tee Fall Classic which will be held at La Cumbre Country Club in Santa Barbara on Monday, October 18th.

How can you help?

Many people don't realize that we are a non-profit and we have to raise our own funds to pay for our amazing coaching team, staff, financial aid, no-fee programs, equipment etc. All contributions are tax deductible and our tax ID # is 77-0524816. We are so grateful for our amazing community of generous donors. There are a variety of easy ways you can help our organization. Please take a look and see if any will work for you.

- Make a one time donation or set up a monthly donation of ANY amount.
- Round Ups: Your spare change can make a big difference! Connect a credit or debit card and every time you swipe that card the round-up change (up to the nearest dollar) goes to our chapter.
- Amazon Smile: Did you know that while doing your regular Amazon shopping you can be giving back to your favorite charity? Amazon will give .03% of your purchases to the charity of your choice. Click [HERE](#) to learn more or to sign up.
- Donate Used Golf Equipment: We are having a drive for the month of March...but we will also take your used golf equipment anytime. You can just let us know and we will come pick it up & send you a tax donation receipt. Contact Matt Craddock at (805) 704-5983 for pick up arrangements. Click [HERE](#) to see the flyer for details.
- Buy Golf Mania Charity tickets! This is a fun way to help us out. Tickets are \$20, \$14 of that goes directly to us. You receive a ticket that has four golfers for each of the four Major PGA events this year. If your players do well...you win money. Click [HERE](#) to see a sample ticket. Click [HERE](#) to purchase one or more tickets online. Or contact me at Jessani.thefirsttee@gmail.com and I will mail you tickets. Ticket money needs to be in to me before the start of the Masters on April 5th.
- Facebook Fundraisers: If you're on Facebook I'm sure you've had friends post about birthday fundraisers...and they don't even have to be for your birthday you can do them anytime and choose the charity of your choice as the recipient. You can search for us on facebook under First Tee – Central Coast. Either way you should join us on Facebook to see fun pictures of our programs...click [HERE](#) to like our FB page. You can find us on Twitter and Instagram as well.
- Planned Giving: Click [HERE](#) to learn more about how you can leave a lasting gift that could impact our chapter for years to come.

Thank you to our donors

We couldn't have made it through 2020 without you! In addition to all of you who participated in our fundraisers, responded to our Annual Appeal and came through for us we also received grants and or sponsorships from the following foundations:

LPGA Foundation, LA84 Foundation, Rotary Club of SLO Daybreak, California Community Foundation, Edward Bedford Foundation, The American Gift Fund, Wood-Clayssens Foundation, Gretler Foundation, Mark & Dorothy Smith Family Foundation, Ann Jackson Family Foundation, Volentine Foundation, American Riviera Bank, Del Rio Advisors, LLC, Southland Childrens Foundation, Mark Lemons Foundation, The Henley Family, Allan Hancock College, Fidelity National Title Santa Barbara, Chicago Title Santa Barbara, Caddyshack Foundation, Sunset Honda, Pacific Western Bank, Lackey's Landings LLC

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