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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Cooper Groshart of First Tee – Central Coast to compete in the Inaugural First Tee National Championship**

*Cooper will showcase golf skills among 48 other teens from  
across First Tee network at  
The Walker Course at Clemson University on June 20-25*

San Luis Obispo, CA (April 28, 2021) – Cooper Groshart of First Tee – Central Coast will compete in the upcoming First Tee National Championship, June 20-25, 2021 at Clemson University. Cooper attends San Luis Obispo High School and is a First Tee participant at Laguna Lake Golf with Coach Terri Benson, PGA. The first-ever event with a total of 48 players will bring together First Tee's elite golfers for an opportunity to showcase how the program has helped build the strength of character needed to play at the collegiate or next level. The tournament was postponed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cooper is currently a sophomore at San Luis Obispo High School and plays for his Varsity Golf team there. He has been with our First Tee – Central Coast chapter for ten years and is a role model for the younger kids in the program.

While COVID protocols will be in effect, the 54-hole event will take place and the winners of each girls' and boys' divisions will be awarded with the Tattersall Cup and also will earn an exemption into the PGA TOUR Champions' PURE Insurance Championship Impacting the First Tee held at Pebble Beach Golf Links September 21-26, 2021.

"We are proud to see Cooper from our area compete in this inaugural event, which will provide him with a college level experience on and off the course" said Jessani Johnson, Executive Director of First Tee – Central Coast. "Cooper has been part of our chapter for ten years and we are delighted to see his growth over the years in character development as well as in level of play."

First Tee National Championship will be held annually at various college campuses around the nation providing First Tee participants the opportunity to network with others from across the country and take in the college experience.

Clemson University's The Walker Course is set to host the inaugural Championship. During the week, Cooper will have the opportunity to hear from PGA Head Golf Professional Steve Scott on how his values intersected with his experience of finishing Runner-Up to Tiger Woods in the 1996 U.S. Amateur Championship.

The field includes 24 boys and 24 girls, ages 14-19, who were selected based on their golf skill, competitive golf experience and handicap. Players will come from 32 First Tee chapters across the country. (Full list below.)

First Tee – Central Coast is a youth development organization dedicated to helping young people learn life skills and build character through the game of golf. First Tee National Championship is one of more than 10 national opportunities provided by First Tee headquarters to empower and motivate teens as they progress through the program and toward higher education opportunities. For more information on First Tee – Central Coast visit [www.FirstTeeCentralCoast.org](http://www.FirstTeeCentralCoast.org). For more information on the tournament and First Tee, visit [www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org).

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### **About First Tee – Central Coast**

Central Coast Junior Golf, Inc. organized as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization in September of 1999 and began doing business as First Tee – Central Coast in October 2002. The organization was created to become a First Tee Chapter and bring the Life Skills Experience to communities in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and northern Ventura counties.

The World Golf Foundation recognized the need for this type of educational youth organization when First Tee was announced in November 1997. Since its inception, The First Tee has had the active support of five of the world's leading golf organizations – the United States Golf Association, PGA Tour, LPGA Tour, PGA of America, and Augusta National Golf Club.

First Tee – Central Coast is one of 150 First Tee chapters across the U.S. and select international locations. 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.

First Tee - Central Coast is currently serving over 2,000 young people annually in after school programming at fourteen locations. Paso Robles Golf Course and Hunter Ranch Golf Course in Paso Robles, SB Golf Club in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria CC in Santa Maria, Laguna Lakes and Dairy Creek in San Luis Obispo, Sea Pines Golf Resort in Los Osos, Morro Bay Golf Course in Morro Bay, Blacklake Golf Resort and Monarch Dunes in Nipomo, La Purisima Golf Course in Lompoc, Alisal Golf Course in Santa Ynez, Vandenberg AFB, and Saticoy Regional in Ventura County. ([www.firstteecentralcoast.org](http://www.firstteecentralcoast.org))

First Tee – Central Coast partners with local elementary schools to bring First Tee curriculum to elementary school PE classes. Through safe, fun activities, kids are learning the basic golf skills, values and healthy habits in a classroom setting. We are currently doing our school programming in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Hope, Goleta, Santa Ynez, Orcutt, Santa Maria, and Lucia Mar school districts. We are serving over 20,000 young people each year in these schools.

In addition, First Tee -Central Coast has curriculum specifically designed for the afterschool/youth-serving space (YMCA's, Girls Inc, Boys and Girls Club, etc.). The First Tee Community Program gives kids the chance to learn about golf and develop character through fun golf games.

Organizations, businesses and individuals interested in becoming part of First Tee – Central Coast are encouraged to contact: Jessani Johnson, Executive Director at [Jessani.thefirsttee@gmail.com](mailto:Jessani.thefirsttee@gmail.com)