

The Scorecard: our quarterly newsletter

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



Happy summer everyone! Time is flying by and here we are already halfway through July. We have LOTS going on with First Tee here on the central coast. Summer programs are going on at most of our sites, we are working on getting our fall schedule ready for you, which will include two new sites: The Mission Club in Lompoc and River Oaks Golf Course in Paso Robles. See below for more on our amazing participants that have qualified for a number of exciting National First Tee Opportunities. We are so proud of Claire, Ben, Cooper and Jacob who have recently received National honors. Fundraising has continued to be a challenge for us in 2021 but we are happy to announce that our Fall Classic Golf Tournament will take place October 11 at Sandpiper Golf Course. Please consider putting together a foursome to play, being a Sponsor, and or donating something for our auction. We could use all the help we can get! See below for the details. As always I am so grateful for all of you that support our chapter. We couldn't do it without you!

A Message from our Program Director - Billy Gibbs, PGA



As far as programming goes, I couldn't be more happy. We have the most amazing, talented and committed group of coaches. We are currently at full capacity with around 500 participants and have plans to grow come fall.

Are we having a positive impact? ABSOLUTELY: Based on their character and talents, we have had many of our participants selected for National Opportunities. Another indication of this is, our retention rates have never been higher; (the more exposure, the more impact). I am so proud of the work our coaches are doing.

Have golf equipment
to get rid of?
We can help!



Contact our First Tee Coach Matt
to schedule a pick up at (805)704-5983 or
matt.cradduck@yahoo.com. All donations benefit our
chapter & we will provide you with a tax receipt.

Look who's going to Pebble Beach!

For many teens, being selected for the PURE Insurance Championship is the pinnacle experience of their First Tee participation, and this is especially true for Ben and Jacob who will be representing our Central Coast chapter at this amazing event this year! The PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach Golf Links in Monterey, is an official PGA TOUR Champions event, which pairs one First Tee junior with a PGA TOUR Champions player and two amateurs. The tournament is televised nationally on the Golf Channel. Although there is a winning score on Sunday, this experience is so much more than a golf event. First Tee participants are provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the Legends & Leaders speaker program, which features notables from the business, sports and entertainment industries. This event also provides the teens a unique mentoring experience on the golf course with their PGA TOUR Champions player and two amateurs. The relationships formed during tournament week are genuine and deeply rooted.

Ben has been with our First Tee chapter for 13 years and for him this is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. In his own words " I am beyond thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to represent the First Tee of Central Coast in this year's Pure Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach. This has been a lifelong dream



of mine and is a testament to my dedication, hard work, and commitment to the First Tee, both as a participant and junior coach. I can't wait to tee it up with the tour pros and participating businessmen and women, and most importantly inspire the younger participants of my chapter and throughout the nation. See you at Pebble!" Ben graduated this spring from Arroyo Grande High School where he has been the captain of the golf team for the past two years. He also finds the time to give back to his community as a First Tee Junior Mentor Coach. First Tee Master Coach Billy Gibbs has been Ben's First Tee Coach since he started with us in 2008 and here's what he has to say about Ben "He exemplifies and consistently exhibits the values that the First Tee instills and stands for. Ben is a respectful, caring, responsible young man who puts forth his best effort in everything he does. He has become a mentor to many of the younger participants and is the kind of person everyone looks up to and wants to be like. Ben loves the game of golf and is extremely talented. His ability to focus and his desire to compete are the makings of a champion."

Joining Ben at Pebble will be First Tee participant Jacob Zakaria. For Jacob, this experience is a family affair. He attended as a 7 year old, watching his older brother and FTCC alum, Adam, compete in this same event in 2011! Jacob just finished his junior year of High School at San Luis Obispo HS where he has played on the Varsity Golf Team for the past 3 years. He has been with our chapter for ten years, Coached by Terri Benson, PGA who said "Jacob is an outstanding young man who has shown his commitment to golf and the First Tee Central Coast for many years. I am so proud to be his coach!". Jacob has equally nice things to say about his coach, "I am beyond excited and honored to represent our Central Coast First Tee Chapter because The First Tee has fostered my personal growth both on and off the golf course throughout my lifetime. Coach Terri Benson has impacted my life with unwavering positive support and encouragement. I am looking forward to having the opportunity to play such amazing golf courses while also meeting professional golfers and other First Tee participants from across the nation."

We wish both of these young men the best of luck. We will be there cheering them on & all of you are welcome to attend as well (or look for them on national TV). Admission is free! Contact Billy Gibbs for details, billygibbs@pga.com. [Click HERE](#) for more on this event..



First Tee Recognition!

#Building Game Changers!



Claire Alford named one of twelve Exemplary High School Seniors to earn Selection in to First Tee's College Scholarship Program. Claire recently graduated from High School as valedictorian with a GPA of 4.56 and will attend Santa Clara University this Fall. [Click HERE](#) to read more.

"First Tee is an amazing supporter of my education! I will be attending college this fall, and I hope to attend medical school in the future. First Tee supports my goals and wants to help me achieve my dream of becoming a physician. I am very thankful to have received scholarships from First Tee, because earning First Tee scholarships means that First Tee believes in my abilities, goals, and future. It is a wonderful feeling to have the confidence and support of First Tee as I transition to college. In addition, the life skills and Core Values I have learned from First Tee are priceless. Skills like introducing myself, building a go-to team, being responsible, and setting goals will help me be a more engaged student and community member in college and for the rest of my life! All in all, First Tee has tremendously advanced my educational journey and given me the tools to succeed!"

Cooper Groshart was chosen as 1 out of 48 First Tee participants from around the world to attend the Inaugural First Tee Championship at Clemson University last month. Cooper shot 73-74-74 for his 3 rounds and came in 7th place. We are all SO proud of him, especially his First Tee Coach Terri Benson who said "Cooper's perseverance and hard work on and off the golf course will continue to pay off throughout his life. I am so proud of you Coop!" In Cooper's words "I had an amazing experience at the First Tee National Championship. I had a lot of fun meeting new people from different parts of the country and getting to know them.

I want to thank First Tee for this great experience." [Click HERE](#) for more on this event.



**Don't miss out...
mark your calendar -
Fall registration opens at
8am on Monday, August 16
FirstTeeCentralCoast.org**

Boardmember Spotlight - Manuel Arceo

Growing up in a Latino household in Southern California, son of Mexican immigrants, golf always seemed so mysterious and exotic. Soccer was the only sport that was played and discussed at home. As a result, soccer provided me an avenue for a college education and even a year of playing abroad in Germany. After a knee injury derailed my professional ambitions, I harnessed my passion for sport to propel myself into a career at Nike, Inc., where I spent 10 years in Nike's Wear Testing department.

Naturally, it was difficult to escape the pull that golf has at Nike given that the biggest building on the Nike World Headquarters' campus is named after Tiger Woods. A few coworkers took me out golfing in the Portland area, where there are no shortages of amazing golf courses, and the game became more familiar and less unnerving. I quickly traded in the soccer cleats for golf spikes and haven't looked back since.

I decided to join the First Tee board because I believe representation matters. The game has come a long way, but there are still barriers to entry that need to be identified and addressed to make the sport more accessible for everyone, especially the most underrepresented in our communities.



"I believe representation matters. The game has come a long way, but there are still barriers to entry that need to be identified and addressed to make the sport more accessible for everyone..." (Manny)

Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors

Dr. Robert Moss – Board Chairman, Matt Porter – Vice Chairman,
Greg Siadal – Treasurer, Lori Vereker – Secretary, Mia Cameron,
Sheila Davidson, Barbara Kummer, Andrew Sherman, Carrie McDonnell Wood,
Whitt Hollis, Randy Shannon, PGA, Bonnie Lauer, LPGA, Josh Heptig, Thayer
White, Linda DeTarr, Manuel Arceo, Aaron Crocker and Eric Bell

First Tee Fall Classic

benefiting First Tee - Central Coast

Sandpiper Golf Course

Monday, October 11, 2021

[Click HERE to: register online](#)

[- print entry form](#)

[- Sponsorship opportunities](#)



Participant of the Quarter

Ethan Klawuhn, 13

Ethan is a participant at Santa Barbara Municipal Golf Course. Ethan recently moved to Santa Barbara from the Bay area and he has found an anchor in The First Tee program and the way it has fostered his passion for golf. He is dedicated to improving, as he often stays after class to hit extra range balls and work on his short game.

He and his family are committed to volunteer work in the community and Ethan also assists as a Coach's volunteer for one of the PAR level classes. He exemplifies the core values that The First Tee represents and we are grateful to have Ethan as a participant in our program

-Coach Kyle



Thank you to the following golf courses that generously welcome our First Tee Programs:

Blacklake Golf Resort
Monarch Dunes
Santa Maria Country Club
La Purisima Golf Course
Laguna Lake Golf Course
Hunter Ranch Golf Course
Santa Barbara Golf Club
Sea Pine Golf Course
Morro Bay Golf Course
Dairy Creek Golf Course



Claire's First Tee Journey

[Click HERE](#) to watch this 3 minute video Claire made about her First Tee - Central Coast experience

What's Coming Up?

- Fall registration opens on Monday, August 16th at 8am www.FirstTeeCentralCoast.org
- Our 2nd “Piece of the Pie” golf tournament for kids will be held at Sea Pines Golf Course on July 18th! If you aren't playing in this one...don't worry there will be more! We are having so much fun with these.
- PURE Championship at Pebble Beach. Come cheer on our FTCC participants who will be playing in this event, Ben Feldman & Jacob Zakaria. September 22-26 or just look for them on the Golf Channel!
- First Tee Fall Classic which will be held at Sandpiper Golf Course this year! This fun event is on Monday, October 11th and is a fundraiser to help support our chapter! Please consider signing up a foursome and or sponsoring the event. We would LOVE to have you there. [Click HERE](#) for details & registration. Contact Carol Frazzano our tournament Director for questions carolf.firstteecentralcoast@gmail.com.

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 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 Cradduck at (805) 704-5983 for pick up arrangements.
- [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 everyone who has generously donated to our First Tee - Central Coast chapter in 2021 - together we are making a difference & Building Game Changers

Photo Gallery



First Tee builds experiences that build character. Experiences are our greatest teacher. We believe in developing the ones that are just as fun as they are meaningful, where kids feel excited to grow, safe to fail, and better equipped for whatever comes their way next.