

The Scorecard: our quarterly newsletter

The promise we make, and how we deliver it:

At First Tee – Central Coast, we believe all kids & teens deserve the chance to grow in a supportive environment with trained coaches and mentors guiding them. We help young people find and develop strength and skills that will carry them through a lifetime of challenges.

Besides Golf Development, our educational and learning experiences build self-confidence and resilience. Additionally, our programs are safe, accessible, welcoming, and as Impactful as they are Fun.

Young people are growing up in an environment that demands more from them than ever before. For that reason, they need even more from us!



A Message from our Executive Director - Jessani Johnson



Fall is officially here! A time change is around the corner, we've had at least one rainy day cancellation, Halloween has come and gone and here we are in the month of giving thanks!

I am so thankful for all of you. Our First Tee families, our coaches and volunteers and of course our generous donors who make everything we do possible...Thank you! Please keep reading for updates from our recent events, what's coming up as we finish up the year, and how your end of year gift can be even more impactful thanks to the Charles Schwab Challenge Grant. Thank for your continued involvement with our central coast chapter!

A Message from our Program Director - Billy Gibbs, PGA



Wow, what a great year we are having. So happy to report that this year 2000 young people, ages 4 to 18, have participated in programming at one or more of our 13 locations. This has given us the opportunity to make a difference in so many lives.

To quote former First Tee CEO, the amazing Joe Louis Barrow Jr, "The young people of today make up 100% of our future." That being the case, we are truly having a positive impact on the future. How cool is that?

PS – And we're just getting started.

Challenge Accepted!

Your gift can go further thanks to the Charles Schwab Challenge Grant.



The Charles Schwab Challenge Grant is happening right now at First Tee – Central Coast. For every \$2 donated from now through the end of the year, Charles Schwab will match with an additional \$1. Our chapter's ability to receive this match will be tied directly to your support! Your donation will help us receive grant money and will help us reach thousands of more kids, like Claire.

"My First Tee coaches and mentors have helped me grow into a hardworking and kind leader with the tools I need to change the world!."
-First Tee alumna Claire Alford

Way to go Jacob & Ben!!

In September, First Tee - Central Coast participants Ben Feldman and Jacob Zakaria had the experience of a lifetime, the chance to play Pebble Beach in a PGA Tour golf tournament with a PGA pro as a mentor and partner. Once a year First Tee, PURE Insurance and PGA Tour come together for the PURE Insurance Championship benefitting First Tee. Thousands of teens apply for this event and based on golf skills, leadership, community service, academic performance, an interview and a lengthy application, 81 talented and well deserving First Tee participants from around the world are invited to play.

This year our chapter was honored to be represented in this event by Ben Feldman & Jacob Zakaria and they did not disappoint! They each had a unique journey leading to this tournament and we are so proud of their accomplishments.

For Jacob, the dream of playing in this event started when he was just 6 years old and he attended to watch his older brother Adam play in 2011. Everything came full circle and this year Adam came and supported his younger brother as his chaperone. On the Tuesday of this exciting week I received an email letting me know that PURE Insurance had decided to choose one of the 81 kids attending to award a 4 year college scholarship to, and they had picked Jacob! This was announced publicly on Wednesday and Jacob's fan club was there to watch him receive this honor. His brothers, mom, dad and First Tee Coach of 12 years, Terri Benson, all showed up! Seeing the joy & pride they all had as he was honored is a memory I cherish. Jacob was partnered with a 3-time champion of this tournament, PGA pro Jeff Sluman. Jacob played very well and they came so close but ultimately their team did not make the cut to play the final round on Sunday.

Ben has been with our chapter for 8 years as a participant and most recently as a junior mentor coach at Blacklake Golf Course in Nipomo with Coach Billy Gibbs. For at least the past 5 years I can recall seeing Ben at this event at Pebble, cheering on his peers that came before him, dreaming of a day that he might get the chance to be there playing with a pro. He applied in 2020 and was accepted and then due to Covid they did not have juniors play in the event last year. First Tee made an exception to the rules and allowed last year's juniors to re-apply for this event this year even though some, like Ben, would be starting their freshman year of college. As it turned out Ben's college, UC Davis started school the week of this event. Through perseverance and hard work Ben was able to make up his classwork and attend the tournament and we are so glad he did! He was paired with PGA golf legend, Bernhard Langer and the two of them finished in 2nd place! Pictured below is Ben with Bernhard after their final round along with a few members of our central coast cheering team. One of the highlights for me as a fan was watching Ben birdie hole #7 one of the most beautiful & famous par 3's in the world! The Golf Channel followed the Feldman/Langer team around quite a bit and his interview even made it on national television.

Congratulations to both of you and thank you for representing our chapter with such integrity. You have incredibly bright futures ahead!
#BuildingGameChangers



Jacob with PGA Tour Pro, Jeff Sluman

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience getting to play alongside Jeff Sluman at Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hills while also being able to meet other participants from around the nation. Thank you so much to the First Tee for putting on this amazing event!"

- Jacob Zakaria, FTCC Participant



Ben with PGA Tour Pro, Bernhard Langerf

"Having the opportunity to play alongside Bernhard Langer and represent my chapter at the PURE Insurance Championship with the support of my First Tee family was a surreal experience. To be the role model and inspiration for participants everywhere, and see all the years of dedication and hard work come together, was the ultimate reward of this experience."

- Ben Feldman, Alumni



Ben with Coach Billy, Bernhard Langer & Central Coast Fan Club

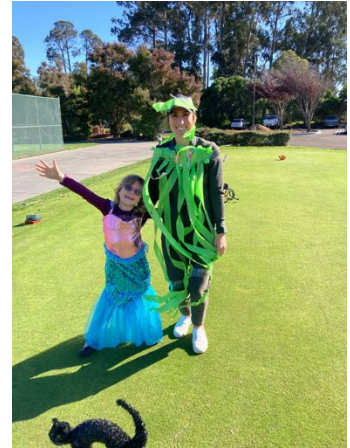


Jacob with Coach Terri & family

First Tee Coach Spotlight

Julia Puscheck, PGA

Meet Julia
(& her daughter,
Marlowe)



I joined the First Tee family in college when I began helping my longtime coach and mentor in the game, Terri Benson, at her site in San Luis Obispo. Terri had known I was planning on pursuing a career in the golf industry and more specifically the instruction side and it was a perfect mix of everything I loved- golf, teaching and kids!

When I think about the positive inherent aspects of the game of golf I think of one story growing up- and although small, I feel it sums up why golf and creating experiences for players to learn and enjoy the game is so important: My sister and I did most of our golf stuff with our dad and one day when I was in middle school/ early high school I remember a colleague of my mom's coming up and without hesitation I put out my hand and introduced myself followed by a conversation. Later my mom was a little shocked as she beamed with pride in stating how impressed she was with how I handled myself and questioned where I had developed that. In the moment as a kid I did not think anything of it and stated simply something like "I don't know, I am just used to it". As I grew older and began to think more critically about my learnings and teachings, it is so clear that the game of golf is full of so many character building experiences that no matter your background, you can be enriched by in your journey to reach your goals and dreams. The great thing about First Tee is that it helps emphasize those inherent values in the experiences it creates for participants and helping players relate those learnings to the rest of the world around them for a well rounded individual. I believe that when kids and teens have more resources and positive experiences to reference in their "back pocket", they will be better equipped to navigate the world around them, which is exactly why First Tee is such an important program for communities. It is fun as a coach to see players get their "aha!" moments when it comes to playing golf, but even more rewarding when you see the participants start to demonstrate and internalize the values and lessons that the game of golf can teach them when trying to navigate life. It has been such a rewarding experience witnessing participants who walk in their first session shy and nervous and blossom as not only golfers but also young adults when they tell you all about their weeks away from the course.

Julia Puscheck Is a Recognized First Tee Coach, a PGA member and Director of Golf at Santa Maria Country Club and we are so lucky to have her as a part of our FTCC team!



Don't miss out...
mark your calendar -
Winter registration opens at
8am on Monday, November 15th
FirstTeeCentralCoast.org

Donor Spotlight - Jeff Forster

How It all started

I was invited to join the original 1st Tee Board of Directors being developed in Santa Maria 20 years ago when other generous donors like Tony Cossa were considering a golf course project by the Santa Maria river bed. The golf course project never survived but the 1st Tee Central Coast program was born from that effort. I quickly became President for two terms (6 years), and also founded the annual fundraising golf tournament for the 1st Tee program. Fred Couples was our guest celebrity at the initial tournament and he was supposed to hold a hitting clinic on the 1st Tee box for all the participants. Unfortunately, it rained like cats and dogs that day. So, we improvised and moved the clinic into the La Cumbre Clubhouse for a putting clinic and talk by Fred. Everyone loved it!

What's It all about?

The 1st Tee program introduces young people to the game of golf while also teaching them valuable life skills that will positively impact their lives. I explain to parents, donors and sponsors how the life skills aspect of the program makes 1st Tee truly unique and special.

Why donate to First Tee?

For The Forster Family, the 1st Tee program is a family affair. My three kids (Julia - 21 yr old, Samantha - 19 years old, and Jeffrey - 16 years old) all participated in the program starting at age 7. My son, Jeffrey, is now a Certified 1st Tee Assistant Coach helping out at Santa Barbara Muni with Coach Kyle. My parents, Dennis and Patty Forster, would sell drink tickets every year at the annual charity golf tournament. And, my wife, Laura Forster, helped with check-in at the recent Sandpiper tournament. 1st Tee is a big part of our family, and we cherish the friendships and wonderful experiences from the program. We hope to give our time and money for another 20 years, at least. We are so thankful to have the 1st Tee program in our lives.

What is the relevance today?

In my humble opinion, The 1st Tee program and the life skills are more relevant today than ever. There are so many distractions for kids these days with devices and technology. Good old fashioned basic people skills like being polite and honest at all times, good eye contact and listening intently, and being kind and compassionate are so important. It is such a joy see how the 1st Tee life skills component helps kids with these important good habits. Personally, my son, Jeffrey, has gone from being the student of these life skill to teaching them to kids as the assistant coach. I could not be more proud of him, or the 1st Tee program and what it stands for.



Jeff is a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley and has been a loyal supporter to our FTCC chapter for 20 years, continues to volunteer, donate, participate in events & currently serves on our Ambassador Board. We are sincerely appreciative of the involvement of Jeff & his family!

Recent Events

Fall Classic at Sandpiper

A fun time was had by all (hopefully) at our 17th annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament. This year's event was held at Sandpiper Golf Course on Monday, October 11th. It started off as a typical day...and then hurricane like winds kicked up

and to top things off a fire broke out, which we could see escalating from the course. Everyone had a great attitude, the margarita hole sponsored by American Riviera Bank, kept spirits up & we were able to raise some money for our chapter! Thanks to all who participated, it was certainly a memorable day!

We were lucky enough to have Hall of Fame LPGA Golfer, Patty Sheehan (pictured on the far left with her foursome) start us off by hitting the ceremonial first tee shot!

This tournament was dedicated to two longtime supporters & founders of our chapter who passed away last year, Ed Murray & Granville Harper and it was extra special to have some of their friends and family there to join us.



Congratulations to our tournament winners:



Overall Gross

- 1) Team Murray Boys with Matt, Quinn & Cavan Murray & Caleb Rodriguez
- 2) Team Forster with Jeff Forster, Barry Gellert, Willie Brummett & Kelly Foy
- 3) Team Lloyd with Ron Lloyd, Sean Hecht, Geoff Fargo & Jordan Scott

Overall Net

- 1) Team Gronskey with David Gronskey, Geoff Bloomingdale, Ken Gaston & Marcel Sassola
- 2) Team Smith with Jay Smith, David Hedge, Tony Rodoni & Robert Kopf
- 3) Team Breeden with Butch Breeden, Tom Kirwin, Don Gragg & Tom Snow

Mixed Flight Gross

- 1) Team Frazzano with Carol Frazzano, Carol Carpenter, Thayer White & Fumi Sato
- 2) Team FT Juniors with Jacob Cameron, Cooper Grosshart, Sofia Pierson & Emma Dodson
- 3) Team Rose with Dave & Sandi Rose and Summer & Josh Breeden

Women's Gross

Team Kummer with Barbara Kummer, Patty Sheehan, Jayla Provance & Chris Christiansen

Women's Net

Team Rodriguez with Susan Rodriguez, Marty Poole, Marcia Green & Elaine Stevenson



Thanks to our Tournament Sponsors:

American Riviera Bank - The Ann Jackson Family Foundation
The Henley Family & The Davidson Family

Thanks to our Tee Sponsors:

Rob & Donna Moss - Ed Edick - Billy & Josie Gibbs - Bill & Lola Widner - Brown & Brown Insurance
The Mester Family - Monarch Retirement Group - Doug Aiken - Bob Holzer Towing
David & Judy Jones - Stafford Kelly - Robert Caraco D.D.S. - Chicago Title - Fidelity National Title
Tolman & Wiker Insurance - The Golf Klub - Mlsho Law Group - Toyota of SB
Compass Realtors Carol Frazzano & Adrienne Schuele - First Republic / Vito Gioiello
Santa Barbara Design & Build - The Cheeryable Foundation

What's Coming Up?

- Fall registration opens on Monday, November 15th at 8am www.FirstTeeCentralCoast.org
- We are hoping for a winter event for kids...stay tuned!

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 .05% of your purchases to the charity of your choice. Here's how to do it.
 1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
 2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
 3. Select "Life Skills Fore the Youth of Colorado Springs" as your charity
 4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app
- [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 Craddock 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 our dedicated Board of Directors

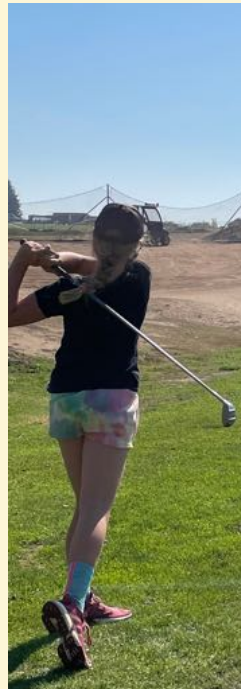
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Randy Shannon, PGA, Bonnie Lauer, LPGA, Josh Heptig,
Thayer White, Linda DeTarr, Manuel Arceo,
Aaron Crocker & Eric Bell

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
Mission Club - River Oaks Golf Course

**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**

Parent Child Tourney at Laguna Lake



Back at It with
Girls Inc In Carp!

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.