

# 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



Can you believe this year marks our 20th year as a chapter! We could not have gotten this far without all of you. Thank you for continuing to be an advocate for our chapter, whether that is through participating in our programs or fundraisers, volunteering your time, being on our Board of Directors, being a donor, or just being someone who spreads the word in our community about the work we do...we are grateful for your connection to our chapter. Please read below about everything we have going on this spring, including National Opportunities, participant spotlights, Spring registration, and our upcoming fundraiser, First Tee Spring Classic at the newly renovated SLO Country Club!

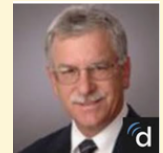
## A Message from our Program Director - Billy Gibbs, PGA



I am so happy to report that 2022 is off to an incredible start. Each of our 13 program locations are at max capacity with 475 registered participants. Our amazing lead coaches have happily shared with us that they have wonderful kids who are respectful, curious, and fully engaged in our First Tee learning experience. We couldn't be more pleased with how this year is starting out.

**Important to note:** First Tee National offers a variety of educational and leadership opportunities for participants each year. These events often become life-changing experiences for our participants as they further develop an awareness of the possibilities that surround them. Every year our chapter has had multiple participants apply for and have been selected to attend many of these opportunities. I can't begin to tell you what a positive impact they have had on those young people. Take the time to see below the list of 2022 National Opportunities. Please reach out to your lead coach or me if you have any questions or would like more information regarding these opportunities.

## A Message from our Board Chairman - Dr. Rob Moss



I think we all had hoped that Covid-19 would be a thing of the past in 2021 after all we went through in 2020. Unfortunately, that was not the case as challenges persisted through year. Despite restrictions and an environment that was not ideal, our team had one of our best years yet.

On behalf of the board of directors of First Tee – Central Coast, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our staff, coaches, volunteers, supporters, parents and especially our young men and women, who have made 2021 such a success.

Our mission is to positively impact the lives of the young people of the Central Coast area by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. 2021 marks another year of incredible accomplishments. Over the past 12 months, we have increased enrollment, added several new Board Members, trained new coaches, achieved the highest standards on our operational goals, sent multiple FTCC participants to National Opportunities, and maximized the first year of the Charles Schwab Grant Challenge...just to name a few accomplishments!

As we embark into 2022, we look forward to growing the success we have had recently and to continuing our important mission of providing opportunities to the youth we serve so that they may succeed now and into the future.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*Rob*

# Challenge ~~Accepted!~~ Crushed!

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

*Thanks Charles Schwab*



Thanks to all of your donations In 2021, we  
maximized this grant opportunity.  
Lets see if we can do It again In 2022!

*"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*

The Charles Schwab Challenge Grant continues this year allowing all contributions in 2022 to have the potential to go even farther. In order to take advantage of this years challenge our chapter has to match our donor generated revenue of last year and once we do... For every \$2 donated from that point on, Charles Schwab will match with an additional \$1. Our chapter's ability to receive this match will be tied directly to your support! This will be a challenge but I know we can do It!

## " 2022 Events (you won't want to miss!)"

### Mark your calendars:

- Spring Classic Golf Tournament at SLOCC -  
March 28th - [REGISTER NOW](#) or [CLICK HERE](#) to  
download the FLYER. Come join the fun!
- Parent Child Tournament at Laguna Lake - March  
12th - text or call Coach Terri at (805) 801-6106  
to reserve your spot (only \$30 per twosome)
- "Another Helping of Pie" Tourney for kids at  
Monarch Dunes - April 23 Registration will be  
available April 1st on our website - click on  
"Events"
- Summer Classic Golf Tournament at Mission Club  
- June 12th - Save the date!
- Fall Classic In SB - Date & Location still TBD



Have golf equipment  
cluttering up your garage?  
We can help!



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

# Participant Spotlight - Meet Cooper Groshart

Cooper attends San Luis Obispo High School and is a First Tee participant at Laguna Lake Golf with Coach Terri Benson, PGA. Cooper is currently a junior and plays for his Varsity Golf team and he has been with our First Tee – Central Coast chapter for eleven years and is a role model for the younger kids in the program. Last year Cooper was chosen to compete in the Inaugural First Tee National Championship which took place at Clemson University. We were so proud to have him represent our chapter. This year he has already been asking for National Opportunity applications and deadlines so I can't wait to see what opportunities come his way in 2022! Here's what Cooper had to say about his First Tee experience, what he's learned and how it applies to his life on and off the golf course.



*Cooper just starting out*

## Q & A with Cooper

**How did you originally get involved with the First Tee?**

“ I first attended golf lessons with the first tee when I was 5 years old at the Laguna Golf Course. This was also how I was introduced to the game that I now love today.

**As you progressed through the program how did First Tee positively impact your life?**

During my progression through the First Tee program, I became more and more aware of the specific roles and responsibilities that come with everyday life. I started developing more confidence in working with others and being a part of a group in general. Now I can say that I truly understand the importance of contributing to the community while still keeping the traits that make me an individual.

**How has First Tee helped equip you to take on new experiences and challenges?**

When I was younger, I tended to shy away from social interactions unless they were absolutely necessary. First Tee helped me get out of my comfort zone and communicate with others that I normally would be too afraid to talk to. Even now, First Tee introduces new challenges and experiences all the time, which I believe helps develop character and will lead to more opportunities in the future.

**Who was your First Tee mentor and how did they influence your personal growth?**

Terri Benson was my First Tee mentor when I originally joined and she still is today. She has influenced me in a number of ways over the years. One of the lessons I've learned from her is how important it is to show respect for others and myself in the game of golf, as well as in life. This has tremendously impacted my personal growth and set me up for success in every way.

**Were there any specific opportunities that were especially meaningful to you?**

One opportunity that was especially meaningful to me was the First Tee National Championship last year at Clemson University. It was an amazing week where I had the chance to connect with other First Tee participants from all over the country. I was also very lucky to get a look at what college life might look like in a couple of years.

**Why do you think First Tee is relevant for kids and teens today?**

Outside of golf being such a great sport to play, I believe there are many reasons why First Tee is extremely beneficial to kids and teens today. One big reason is that it provides the generations that will lead in the future with the tools they need to succeed and help others succeed as well.

Golf is the perfect sport to, in a way, imitate life and the unpredictabilities that go along with it. Kids that overcome these obstacles will be much better equipped for the future. Above all, First Tee is a fun program to be a part of for kids of all ages and backgrounds. “





# Don't miss out...

**mark your calendar -**

**SPRING REGISTRATION OPENS at  
8am on Tuesday, March 1st at  
[FirstTeeCentralCoast.org](https://FirstTeeCentralCoast.org) - click on  
"Register My Child"  
Click [HERE](#) for the Spring Schedule.**

## 2022 National Opportunities

Cooper (featured above) is one of our FTCC participants that has taken full advantage of FT National Opportunities and this could be you (or your child) too! 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 programs into their teen years. Each opportunity has its own set of requirements and I encourage you to look through them and discuss with your kids & their coaches. 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. See below for the 2022 planned opportunities and click on each one for details about eligibility requirements, application due dates etc. Don't miss out on ALL First Tee has to offer!

### 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.

- First Tee Future Entrepreneurs  
Presented by Wells Fargo | May 3-6
- John Deere Drive Your Future Academy |  
June 6-10
- First Tee National Championship | June 28-  
July 1
- John Deere Power For Good Contest | June  
27 - July 1
- Game Changers Academy Honoring Joe  
Louis Barrow, Jr | July 19-23
- First Tee Leadership Summit in partnership  
with PGA TOUR Superstore | August 1-5; 8-  
12
- First Tee Corporate Connect in partnership  
with the Coca-Cola Company August 24-  
27
- PURE Insurance Championship Impacting  
the First Tee | September 20-25
- First Tee Innovators Forum | November 16-  
19

# Congrats to these 2 Participants of the Quarter

## It's Golf Mania Time!

### Participant of the Quarter Douglas McCollm, 14

Final quarter  
of 2021

In his own words: "After graduating from 8th grade during COVID, I have felt like I need to participate in more volunteer work to make more human connections and help my community. I hope that by volunteering and helping my community will help me connect to people personally and improve my social life."

In the recent past I have: Participated in my Uncle Lito's cancer benefit fundraiser.. volunteered for the PE department at Orcutt Academy...assisted the OA Class of 2021 with their haunted house fundraiser, I [also] enjoy volunteering for First Tee program because I get to interact with the younger kids and help coach them to improve their golf and social skills. I also enjoy taking some stress off coach Julia with set up"



I am so proud and lucky to have  
Doug at SMCC Site!- Coach Julia

**first tee**  
central coast

### Participant of the quarter Keaton Rutter - 14

First  
quarter  
of 2022

Keaton Rutter of First Tee Central Coast, at Hunter Ranch Golf Course. When we think of Keaton, many fine qualities come to mind, but one is paramount: sportsmanship.

Without fail, Keaton always arrives at the First Tee with a smile on his face and kindly says hello. No matter which partners he is paired with, Keaton engages in every task, gives his all, and treats everyone respectfully in his group. Keaton is a great example to all, but especially to the younger players who look up to him- both literally and figuratively. He not only gives positive encouragement to his fellow players, but is also patient, persevering thru golf's inevitable challenges. Keaton may hit his powerful drive thru a fairway, an amazing iron shot over the green, or barely lip out a much-needed putt with his deft touch, he never complains, just simply moves on to play the next shot with a smile on his face. Not only is Keaton a great First Tee participant, he also prioritizes school and is among the honor students who attend eighth grade at Saint Rose Catholic School in Paso Robles.

Well done Keaton... on your golf and life skills development!

First Tee Central Coast and Hunter Ranch Coaches Andrew and Carrie are thrilled to highlight Keaton Rutter, for being a wonderful golfer and person with exemplary sportsmanship.



**first tee**  
central coast

Golf Mania Ticket fundraiser is here and is a fun way to give back to our local chapter programs. Woo Hoo!!

Four chances to WIN BIG for only \$20.00!!! Basically that's \$5 for each Tournament to have a chance to win some cash – how fun is that?? Starting with The Masters on April 7th, PGA Championship May 19th, US Open June 16th and finally The British Open July 14th!

\$20.00 gets you 34 chances to win in each 4 major championships – NICE!! (\$14 dollars goes straight to our chapter!!)

·Each game card has a 1 in 20 chance of winning plus allows the purchaser to download \$30 worth of music from new artists!!!  
·Cards are pre-assigned 5 golfers. Prizes are awarded at the end of each tournament to the cards whose 5 golfers have the 31 best (and 3 worst) total combined scores.

Tickets can be purchase online by using the QR-Code below or by clicking [HERE](#).

Good Luck and thank you for supporting our chapter!



# 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 donation of ANY amount.
- 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 "CENTRAL COAST JUNIOR GOLF INC" as your charity (this is our legal name)
  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.

## We are looking for people to join our board of directors.

Please contact Jessani at [jessani.thefirsttee@gmail.com](mailto:jessani.thefirsttee@gmail.com) or Rob at [robmoss48@yahoo.com](mailto:robmoss48@yahoo.com) for more Information.

## Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors:

Dr. Robert Moss – Board Chairman,  
Matt Porter – Vice Chairman,  
Mia Cameron, Sheila Davidson, Barbara Kummer,  
Andrew Sherman, Carrie McDonnell Wood, Whitt Hollis  
Randy Shannon, PGA, David Posnick  
Thayer White, 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 Pines Golf Course  
Morro Bay Golf Course  
Dairy Creek Golf Course  
The Mission Club  
River Oaks Golf Course



Our First Tee Central Coast Chapter suffered a huge loss last week with the passing of our Board Member of 10 years, and Treasurer, Greg Siadal.

It gives us some comfort that he was on the golf course playing the game he loved so much, surrounded by great friends. He leaves behind his wife, kids and grandkids who were his pride and joy.

Greg you will be so missed by your First Tee family & we thank you for your years of dedication & support.



# Lets look at the numbers ...in 2021 FTCC:

**Had 2,708  
participants**

**Including  
12 local  
golf courses**

**3 Middle  
Schools**

**at 19  
Central Coast  
locations**

**2 YMCA's**

**1 Girls Inc**

**had 115  
military  
kids  
participate  
for free**

**raised  
\$302,588**

**sent 4  
coaches to  
national  
coach training**

**1 Airforce  
Base**

**sent 6  
participants  
to national  
opportunities**

**We couldn't  
have done  
It without  
you!**

**had 369  
Individual  
donors**

## Thanks to TaylorMade Golf

**All military families have been able to participate in our FTCC programs for FREE since January 2021 & Our Military families are grateful!**

The First Tee is AWESOME! We learn golf through fun drills and games. It is great meeting friends too. I really like Coach Julia, Randy and Doug. Ben (9)

The First Tee has been a wonderful opportunity for our children. They really enjoy the fun setting and being able to golf with other kids. The coaches are so positive and encouraging and the lessons extend well beyond the course. Thank you Taylor Made! - FT mom, Stephanie

I like First Tee because the coaches make it fun. We learn more than just golf skills such as good sportsmanship, courtesy, and etiquette. Norah (11)



Leland has enjoyed the golf classes at Dairy Creek Golf Course with Coach Matt. This new hobby of his has enhanced our family time too! We've made time to practice putting and driving together at other courses and even at home using video game versions. These are great opportunities for Leland to bond with his retired Navy step dad. - FT mom, Jennifer



"The First Tee program helped introduce our son, Aiden, then 5, to the game of golf, which has now become a bonding activity for Aiden and his dad/my husband. They love to go out to the driving range together and practice their putting around our house. I think golf is such a great sport for a kid to learn - it teaches discipline, patience and just general good manners - and I am incredibly thankful that the First Tee program is there for young kids." - FT mom, Courtney



Golf at Mission  
Club In Lompoc



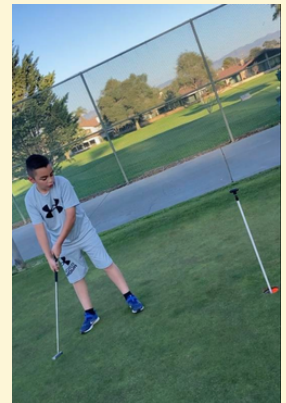
and SBGC...



and Laguna...



and SMCC...



and Dairy Creek...



Our Holiday Event last  
December at Blacklake

