



Parent/Guardian Handbook

Our Mission & History

Established in 2003, First Tee – Greater Charlotte is a 501(c)3 serving kids and teens, ages 5-18, from all walks of life. We utilize on-course, in-school, and community programs to teach the game of golf and its inherent values to young people within the Greater Charlotte area. We serve more than 2,000 young people annually at eight different facilities in the Greater Charlotte area. We also partner with more than 200 local elementary schools to bring the game of golf and core values to more than 120,000 students during the school day. Through our partnership with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation we opened our Learning Center that is adjacent to the Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course at Revolution Park in April 2009, with renovations in 2016, and our Learning Center at Pineville opened in April 2021.

Our mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

FAQ's

What is the purpose of First Tee - Greater Charlotte?

First Tee – Greater Charlotte believes that golf is a perfect practice ground for learning skills that go far beyond the fairways. At all levels, players can play, learn, and appreciate the game of golf and how it relates to life, as they focus on the Key Commitments to becoming a Game Changer: Pursuing Goals, Growing through Challenge, Collaborating with Others, Building Positive Self-Identity, and Using Good Judgment.

At what age can a person participate at First Tee – Greater Charlotte?

The First Tee Key Commitments is designed for young people ages 5-18. Registration guidelines are based on your child's age during the programming session (i.e., spring, summer, and fall).

What happens if the weather threatens our ability to hold class?

First Tee – Greater Charlotte will make every effort to hold programs. Classes will only be cancelled if the course is closed due to inclement weather, the weather forecast predicts weather that can put participants in danger or there is a reason to believe that the entire class will be rained out. If classes are cancelled, First Tee – Greater Charlotte will notify parents via the email that was provided during registration. In addition, weather updates will be posted on our social media pages and via SMS text messaging, if you have signed up.

How does my participant advance to the next level?

Once they reach the new age group, they will automatically move into the next age group. Progression will be measured through a new badge system. Badges will be used to measure progression and accomplishments.

What does my participant need to bring and wear? Do we need to own golf clubs?

We require all participants to wear closed toe sneakers or golf shoes. Denim is not permitted, and collared shirts are encouraged at all locations and **required** at our Fort Mill and Springfield locations. Participants are welcome to bring their own equipment. If participants do not have clubs, we can provide any equipment necessary to use during the duration of a class. Participants are encouraged to bring a water bottle and wear sunscreen.

What is the First Tee – Greater Charlotte membership card?

Membership cards will be given to each participant at the beginning of the season and will expire at the end of the year. Membership cards give participants certain privileges at a variety of businesses and golf courses. Membership cards are given to all participants. Please refer to membership card guidelines for complete details.

What are the drop off and pick up procedures?

We ask that all parents/guardians check in their participant prior to the start of each class and sign your child out at the end of each class. Please be courteous and be on time dropping off and picking up. Coaches will begin and end all classes on time as scheduled.

What is “Car Talk”?

Car Talk is an email that will go out at the beginning of each week of programming that will summarize the skills and topics to be covered in class in the week to come.

First Tee – Greater Charlotte Staff

Executive Director, Daniel Fogarty

dfogarty@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Director of Organizational Development, Amanda Ross

aross@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Director of Finance and Human Capital, Tanya Briner

tbriner@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Director of Golf Operations, Ian Bollinger

ibollinger@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Program Director, Brittnay Cross

bcross@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Program Coach & Program Coordinator, Kell Graham

coachkell@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Program Coach & Communications Manager, Cameryn Smith

coachcam@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Program Coach & Volunteer Coordinator, Maurice Crowe

mcrowe@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Program Coach & Corporate Partnership Manager, Dan Haddon

coachdan@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Program Coach & Program Assistant, Caroline Rowell

crowell@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Program Coach & Mental Wellness Coach, Ryan Hoffer

coachryan@thefirstteegreaterhcharlotte.org

Program Coach & Outreach Coordinator, David Stevenson

coachstevenson@thefirstteegreatercharlotte.org

Program Locations

First Tee – Greater Charlotte Learning Center at Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course

2661 Revolution Park Drive
Charlotte, North Carolina 28208

First Tee – Greater Charlotte Learning Center at Pineville

10401 Cadillac Street
Pineville, NC 28134

Charles T. Myers Golf Club

7817 Harrisburg Road
Charlotte, NC 28215

Emerald Lake Golf Club

9750 Tournament Drive
Matthews, NC 28104

Springfield Golf Club

639 Hambley House Lane
Fort Mill, SC 29715

Fort Mill Golf Club

101 Country Club Drive
Fort Mill, SC 29715

Highland Creek Golf Club

7101 Highland Creek Parkway
Charlotte, NC 28269

HangTime Golf

3119 S New Hope Road
Gastonia, NC 28056

Age Groups

Age 5&6 and 7–9

Coach to player ratio: 7:1

What's covered: First Tee Program for ages 5&6 and 7–9 teaches the game of golf in a fun, safe, and empowering environment. At this age group, we are **introducing and engaging** participants with both golf and life skills. Participants will get active and play golf with their peers to help them build inner strength, self-confidence, and enthusiasm for the game.

Classes are designed to accommodate new and returning golfers of the same age.

Participants will register and be grouped by age and will progress through the program as they “age up,” with lessons adjusted to challenge players at their skill level.

Class duration: one hour per week for 8 weeks

Age 10&11

Coach to player ratio: 7:1

What's covered: First Tee Program for ages 10&11 supports the **exploration** of both character and golf skills in active and collaborative ways. The learning experiences in the course help to build inner strength, self-confidence, and an enthusiasm for the sport, while encouraging the development of positive Game Changing behaviors. Classes are designed to accommodate new and returning golfers of the same age. Participants will register and be grouped by age and will progress through the program as they “age up” with lessons adjusted to challenge players at their skill level.

Class duration: one hour per week for 8 weeks

Age 12&13

Coach to player ratio: 7:1

What's covered: First Tee Program for ages 12&13 focuses on the development of both golf and character skills. The lessons and activities in this program **empower participants** to explore both golf skills and character commitments appropriate for their stage of growth and development. Coaches support the development of confidence in participants through additional opportunities for them to demonstrate mastery and growth in their golf skills and abilities. Classes are designed to accommodate new and returning golfers of the same age. Participants will register and be grouped by age and will progress through the program as they “age up,” with lessons adjusted to challenge players at their skill level.

Class duration: 1.5 hours per week for 8 weeks

Age 14+

Coach to player ratio: 7:1

What's covered: First Tee Program for ages 14+ places a greater emphasis on the personal development of participants. These lessons help participants **elaborate** on their understanding, applying what they have learned to new situations on and off the course to deepen their skills as they **evaluate, reflect on, and provide evidence of their new understanding** of life and golf skills. As participants learn more about who they are and what they are capable of, they have the opportunity at First Tee to begin to look towards the future and plan their own paths. Classes are designed to accommodate new and returning golfers of the same age.

Class duration: 1.5 hours per week for 8 weeks

Advancing

Once participants reach a new age group, they will automatically move into the next age group. Progression will be measured through a new badge system. Badges will be used to measure progression and accomplishments.

Commitment to being a Game Changer

Pursuing Goals

I am excited to grow and learn.

I am not afraid to fail.

I am learning from both my achievements and setbacks.

Growing through Challenge

I am discovering my inner strength.

I am developing resilience.

I can dig deep when things get tough.

Collaborating with Others

I respect other perspectives, especially when they are different from mine.

I show kindness, consideration, and care for others.

I know that my attitude and how I treat others have an impact.

Building Positive Self-Identity

I am finding my self-confidence.

I am discovering what I'm capable of.

I feel safe to be myself.

Using Good Judgment

I respect rules in golf and in life.

I am honest with myself and with others.

I have the courage to do what's right, even when it's hard.

I can change the game and change the world by simply being the best version of myself.

I am a Game Changer.

Participate

Youth ages 5-18 may register online for after-school programs and summer camps. We believe that the game of golf provides a platform to encourage core values and healthy choices. First Tee Key Commitments is one of the unique features that differentiates First Tee from other youth enrichment and junior golf programs. Register online at www.firstteegreatercharlotte.org, click on "Register"

Donate

Your gift is an investment in young people who represent 100% of the future. The First Tee - Greater Charlotte Annual Fund helps bridge the gap between the cost to deliver programs and to attend classes. Scholarship assistance is available to families who qualify.

- Consider making an individual gift
- Double your gift through your company's matching gift program
- Donate new or used golf equipment

Go online to www.firstteegreatercharlotte.org, click on "Donate"