



## First Tee builds experiences that build character.



**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 – Cleveland** is one of 150 chapters of First Tee, a national initiative begun in 1997. Serving youth ages 6-18 across Northeast Ohio, the Cleveland chapter was founded 19 years ago. Our main campus at Washington Golf Course in Newburgh Heights features a nine-hole golf course operated by Cleveland Metroparks.

In 2020, First Tee rebranded, changing our chapter's name to First Tee – Cleveland. We served **more than 2,000 kids in 2021** through programs led by more than 145 trained coaches in a safe environment. We're proud of our 6:1 coach / participant ratio.

We strive to help kids strengthen what they bring to everything they do, including golf. Character is learned, cultivated and shaped by experiences.

**Program Locations:** We deliver programs at the following local golf courses:

- **Washington Golf Course**, 3841 Washington Park Blvd., Newburgh Heights
- **Briardale Greens Golf Course**, 24131 Briardale Avenue, Euclid
- **Meadowood Golf Course**, 29800 Center Ridge Road, Westlake
- **Grantwood Golf Course**, 38855 Aurora Road, Solon
- **Black Brook Golf Course & Practice Center**, 8900 Lakeshore Blvd., Mentor
- **Whiskyville Golf Club**, 9488 Leavitt Road, South Amherst
- **Brentwood Golf Course**, 12415 Grafton Road, Grafton

**School Program:** We reach participants in elementary and middle schools through PE classes. First Tee School Program gives physical educators all the tools to get started. We provide the training, equipment, and lesson plans that integrate life skills and values with the game of golf. This program aligns with national physical education standards developed by the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) and is designed to allow physical educators the ability to adjust lessons to fit their specific teaching situations.

**Community Program:** We partner with other youth-serving organizations, such as YMCA, Boys and Girls Club and University Settlement, to bring the First Tee program to life and introduce golf using games that are flexible to the ages and abilities of the kids involved. We host programs at the Community Partner locations as well as host field trips at Washington Golf Course to provide the green grass experience.

### **Mission:**

To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

### **Purpose:**

To enable kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges.



### **Proven Outcomes:**

- Increased self-confidence
- Increased academic achievement
- Increased social & emotional skills
- Strength in character



"I got involved because **it's about kids and it's about education.**  
It's not about learning golf.  
**It's about building character."**  
- First Tee Trustee



**First Tee Programs:** Annual Programs for kids and teens ages 6-18: weekday afternoons and Saturdays; Program sessions are held in the Spring, Summer, Fall and late-Fall.

**"Fit to A Tee" Cooking Class:** winter months; We've teamed up with Cuyahoga Community College's Culinary Arts program to host this exciting program for youth ages 8-18.

**Proximity Golf Winter Programs:** takes place indoors using simulators; Tuesdays & Thursdays in February & March; ages 11-18

**Caddie Training Program:** takes place Saturdays in March at Washington Golf Course; ages 14-18

**Cleveland Metroparks Summer Golf Camp:** weekly, June – August  
In conjunction with Cleveland Metroparks at Washington Park Course; First Tee coaches work with players to enjoy a combination of practice ("skills n drills" station activities) and on-course play.

**We're always looking for volunteer coaches!** The national First Tee Coach Program provides all the necessary training of curriculum, child safety and process. Developed with input from national leading experts in positive youth development, our program focuses on empowering participants through decision-making and exploring options. This helps foster positive relationships between coaches and young people, inspiring the leaders of tomorrow to look to the future, set goals and unlock their potential.

**Program Cost:** Our average participant fee of \$75 annually **covers only 7% of the total yearly individual program cost.** We will never turn a child away due to the inability to pay program fees. To sustain this commitment, we rely on generous monetary donations as well as donations of gently used equipment.

**How is First Tee different from other youth programs?**

Using a values-based platform for our curriculum, First Tee's core values encourage participants to develop a positive, respectful "inner self," while developing their own personal par in golf and life. We use interpersonal skills, self-management, goal-setting and resilience skills for lesson themes, encouraging participants to explore self-development while seamlessly developing golf skills and learning golf's culture of honesty and integrity. Participants then apply what they learn at home, school, work and in social settings.

**Staff**

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