



More Than A Game Capital Campaign

2023

Mission

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.



Purpose

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





Washington Golf Course is designated as an **Audubon International Certified Gold Signature Sanctuary** by the **National Audubon Society** recognizing the high quality of environmental stewardship reflected in the golf course design and maintenance.

2017 STRIVE Award

First Tee – Cleveland was named the **S.T.R.I.V.E. Organization of the Year** by the **National Council of Youth Sports**. The award honors youth and amateur sports organizations that demonstrate a commitment to help kids succeed in youth sports activities while keeping young athletes safe.

Who We Are

At **First Tee – Cleveland**, we believe every child deserves the chance to build inner strength before the world demands it, to find the joy that comes with feeling confident, and to access experiences and spaces where personal growth happens.

First Tee is a youth development organization that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of challenges. By seamlessly integrating a **life skills curriculum** with the **game of golf**, we create active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do.

History & Background

In 1997, **First Tee** began as a partnership among the LPGA, the Masters Tournament, the PGA of America, the PGA TOUR and the USGA, to provide access to affordable junior golf programming. Combining the rules of the game with life and leadership skills, kids learn important values and life skills found through golf in a safe, fun environment.

In 1999, **Andre' Thornton** took the lead to form a First Tee chapter in Cleveland, and in **2003**, First Tee – Cleveland, in cooperation with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the City of Cleveland and Cleveland Metroparks, secured 60 acres of land at the Washington Park Horticultural Center to construct the nine-hole **Krieger Golf Course** (designed by **Brit Stenson**), practice facility, clubhouse and the **Iris S. & Bert L. Wolstein Life Skills Education Center**.

The golf course and life skills center are now operated by **Cleveland Metroparks**, while all youth programming is under the direction of First Tee – Cleveland. The chapter's first Executive Director, **Doris A. Evans, M.D.**, retired in 2010. Dr. Evans continues to be an active supporter and ambassador of First Tee – Cleveland.



Our Programs

We see golf as a metaphor for life. It's not the score that counts, but what you learn along the way. As in life, golf requires goal setting, working with others and digging deep when things get tough. Golf is a perfect practice ground for learning skills that go far beyond the fairways.

First Tee – Cleveland delivers programming at eight program locations across Northeast Ohio – east, west and south. Participants ages 6 - 18 progress through the program over time, deepening their understanding of life skills and golf development. The integrated approach helps kids and teens build **confidence** and **resilience** for when they are **on the course, at home and in school**.

We also deliver programs in elementary and middle schools and in collaboration with community partners at other youth-serving organizations.

Every participant has the opportunity to:

1. **Focus on interpersonal and self-management skills on and off the golf course.**
2. **Set goals and put strategies in place to make them a reality.**
3. **Learn conflict resolution, resilience and how to plan for the future.**
4. **Learn the game of golf and how it relates to life.**

Core Values

Honesty
Integrity
Sportsmanship
Respect
Confidence
Responsibility
Courtesy
Perseverance
Judgment



Our Participants

At First Tee, **diversity** means that everyone is invited to participate in our programs, regardless of background or experience, and has a chance to be involved.

Everyone feels welcome to come and grow through their experiences.

What is a Game Changer?

First Tee – Cleveland helps kids and teens become Game Changers.

A **game changer** is someone who:

- Pursues goals
- Grows through challenge
- Collaborates with others
- Builds positive self-identity
- Uses good judgment



Character Development: Our curriculum emphasizes character development and social and emotional learning objectives through golf, delivering activities that are developmentally appropriate, designed to meet kids where they are.

Adult Mentors: Multi-level coach training programs focus on research-proven methods of positive youth development, providing our coaches with the tools to help kids feel safe, included and empowered on the golf course, in the classroom and beyond.

Personal Growth: We provide an array of immersive enrichment programs and participant opportunities that inspire personal growth.

Studies have shown that young people in our programs are:

- **More confident in school**
- **Active, contributing members of their community**
- **Supported by coaches, who they view as caring mentors**

Positive Youth Development

Character development leads to better academic outcomes.

While many elements of a child's life improve with the cultivation of social and emotional learning (SEL), one of the main outcomes is **better academic performance**.

Emotional well-being is crucial for developing foundational literacies and communication skills. Students participating in First Tee programs showed:

1. Increased ability to manage stress and depression
2. Improved classroom behavior
3. Better attitudes about themselves, others, and school

Our trained coaches create **safe, supportive and empowering environments** to help kids and teens prepare for life ahead, including friendships, school, college and their careers.

In a longitudinal study of the impact of First Tee programs:

- **100% of participants transferred what they learned at First Tee to school**
- **82% felt more confident with social skills**
- **73% reported higher confidence in academic ability**

Our young people reported greater ability to transfer what they learned at the First Tee Program to contexts such as school or home (meeting and greeting, managing emotions, resolving conflicts, appreciating diversity, and getting help from others).

Our program is effective in promoting positive youth development through our **intentional curriculum**, training of coaches to effectively deliver the curriculum, and supportive and caring relationships with coaches, mentors and peers.



"It's almost like you're with another family. A family that wants to inspire, teach, help develop and provide you with the tools to help you go as far as you can in life."

- **Jordan Bates**
Alumni





“I am a longtime supporter of First Tee – Cleveland because I believe in investing in kids! Kids remember what they learn through practice.

First Tee allows kids to have fun when caring mentors foster individual growth by teaching life skills through the game of golf.”

– **Enid Rosenberg**
Honorary Chair
Capital Campaign

Our Vision

We’re proud to announce a partnership with **Cleveland Metropolitan School District** to deliver programming in all K-8 physical education classes by 2024, along with after-school programs and field trips to get kids outside and “on course.” We’re also creating a golf league for CMSD junior high students at Washington Golf Course.

Our chapter has grown tremendously over the past 20 years and has **outgrown space at the current facility**. We are committed to ensuring we can continue to expand our programming and meet the needs of all kids in our city. **By increasing our capacity to meet the growing needs of our community, we will provide greater access to transformational youth programming all year long.**

First Tee – Cleveland has embarked on a capital campaign for a 12,000 square foot Activity Center adjacent to its Iris S. & Bert L. Wolstein Life Skills Education Center. This renovated space (previously a CMSD Science Building) will include:

- **a large recreation area for year-round programming**
- **individual areas for learning and studying**
- **golf simulators**
- **a state-of-the-art kitchen for our Fit to A Tee culinary programs, and**
- **expanded meeting and office space.**

Goal: \$3.5 million

To support our efforts to expand education, leadership and golf opportunities for all kids.

First Tee – Cleveland maintains a strong partnership with **Cleveland Metroparks**. The Metroparks will maintain operations of the new facility at **no cost to First Tee**.

We Need Your Help

First Tee – Cleveland is committed to ensuring we meet the changing needs of kids and families today. **We help kids show up stronger in everything they do, and we need your help to do it.**

Our supporters have been instrumental in the positive impact we've had on young people since 2003. The changing world is demanding more from our kids, and therefore more from us to help them.

Join us as we embark on the More Than A Game Capital Campaign to add an Activity Center. Your support will help foster the next generation of "game changers."



"First Tee is amazing. I have three children ages 7-12. We've been affiliated with so many organizations, and this is top notch. I haven't met an organization of people, activity and love for children better than this."

- Cortez
Parent



"I'm proud to serve this incredible team and organization. The growth we have seen at First Tee – Cleveland has been amazing the last few years, and yet there are so many more youth in our community that we want to and need to serve. Therefore, we need to expand our facilities to accommodate growth and offer year-round programming. Please join us in making this happen."

- Daryl Deckard
Immediate Past Board Chair
Campaign Co-Chair



"Now, more than ever, our children need a safe place to grow and develop. First Tee – Cleveland is the premier character building organization for young people in Northeast Ohio, and I am thrilled to be involved with its ongoing growth and success."

- Ronna McNair
Board Chair
Campaign Co-Chair

2022 by the Numbers

At First Tee - Cleveland...

We're Building Game Changers



13,095
Young People
Ages 6-18



23
Lead Coaches



193
Volunteers



52
Schools



30 Outreach Partners

- CMSD Summer Experience
- UH Rainbow Babies & Children's
- Cleveland Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Cleveland Metroparks Summer Camp
- Hathaway Brown's ASPIRE Program
- Young Men Growing
- Gideon's Army
- Literacy Through the Arts
- To name a few...



8 Program Locations
Washington, Briardale, Grantwood, Meadowood, Black Brook, Whiskeyville, Brentwood, ProXimity Golf



50%
Retention Rate
of participants who returned
for 2021 programs

"I started with the First Tee in 2011, and it has completely altered my life. It's hard to put into words but First Tee has saved me. I don't know where I would be without the First Tee."

- **Antonio Jofferion**, Alumni



More Than a Game Capital Campaign

Honorary Chairs

Rick Buoncore
Enid Rosenberg

Campaign Chairs

Daryl Deckard
Ronna McNair

Number of Participants Served



"Thank you for your consideration in making our vision of an Activity Center a reality for the youth throughout our community. You can be our game changer and change lives."

- **Patricia LoPresti**
Executive Director

Chapter Leadership

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Development & Marketing Director
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Program Manager
 Dorothy Kasper
Program Manager
 Michael Lisman
J.E.D.I. & Outreach Coordinator

Photo Credit (page 5): Ryan Gilbert



Activity Center:
 Floor Plan (above)
 Exterior (right)
 Activity Area
 (far right)





Building Game Changers

Patricia LoPresti, Executive Director

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