



**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 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.

First Tee – Cleveland is one of 150 chapters of First Tee, a national initiative begun in 1997. Serving youth ages 7-18 across Northeast Ohio, the Cleveland chapter was founded more than 20 years ago. Our main campus at Washington Golf Learning Center in Newburgh Heights features a nine-hole golf course operated by Cleveland Metroparks and the **Woodworth Activity Center** which allows for year-round programming.

More than **20,000 kids and teens** had a First Tee experience in 2025. Our programs are led by 80 trained volunteer coaches in a safe environment. 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**, 3883 Washington Park Blvd., Newburgh Heights
- **Briardale Greens Golf Course**, 24131 Briardale Avenue, Euclid
- **Meadowood Golf Course**, 29800 Center Ridge Road, Westlake
- **Whiskyville Golf Club**, 9488 Leavitt Road, South Amherst
- **Brentwood Golf Course**, 12415 Grafton Road, Grafton
- **Highland Park Golf Course**, 3550 Green Road, Highland Hills
- **Kopf Family Golf Course at Cherry Ridge**, 1211 West River Road, Elyria

School Program: We reach participants in elementary and middle school PE classes. First Tee School Program gives physical educators 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.

We have a strong partnership with **Cleveland Metropolitan School District** through which we deliver the First Tee program in 66 K-8 CMSD schools.

Community Program: We partner with other youth-serving organizations to bring the First Tee program to life and introduce golf using games that are flexible to kids' ages and abilities. We host programs at the Community Partner locations as well as host field trips at Washington Golf Course for the on-course experience and in our Activity Center for indoor golf fun.

Mission

We enable youth to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of challenges.

By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with life skills curriculum, we create learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence and resilience that youth carry to everything they do.



Five Key Commitments to Being a Game Changer

Pursuing Goals
Growing through Challenge
Collaborating with Others
Building Positive Self-Identity
Using Good Judgment



Visit our Activity Center!

First Tee – Cleveland has expanded to offer year-round programming thanks to the addition of the spacious **Woodworth Activity Center**. The 12,000sf facility enables our chapter to host more programs, field trips and other activities for the deserving youth in our community.



"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 7-18: weekday afternoons and Saturdays; Outdoor program sessions are held in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Late-Fall. Indoor programs are offered during the winter months.

"Fit to A Tee" Cooking Class: Kids ages 8-18 learn cooking skills, try new recipes and have fun in the kitchen. Offered throughout the year, the class includes a field trip experience and seasonal highlights!

Cleveland Metroparks Summer Golf Camp: weekly, June – August at Washington Park Course; Cleveland Metroparks camp counselors and First Tee coaches work collaboratively 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. All coaches are background checked and SafeSport certified.

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.

Program Cost: Our average participant fee of \$65 per session **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.

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