



2024-2025

Impact Report





Building Game Changers

At First Tee - Greater Charleston, we believe confidence, perseverance, and respect for others can take a child far—on the golf course and in life. We also believe that experiences are our greatest teacher.

Our coaches don't just teach young people about perseverance; we show them how it's done. And then we help them put it into practice. We're using golf to teach life lessons. We give young people a safe space to try, fail, re-evaluate, and try again. It makes them good golfers and even better people—equipped for anything that comes their way.

Resilience is a game changer on the course, in the classroom, at home, at work, and in life. Thank you for helping us give that gift to thousands of Charleston Area young people. Thank you for Building Game Changers!

“I love First Tee. They teach the children respect, dignity, social skills, and so much more.”

– Brionna H. | First Tee Parent

Our Mission

To positively impact the lives of Charleston Area youth by providing structured educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

Our Core Values

Confidence
Courtesy
Honesty
Integrity
Judgment
Perseverance
Respect
Responsibility
Sportsmanship

How We Reach Kids

In 2024, we served 22,933 children on golf courses, in schools, and through community partners.



On-Course Golf & Life Skills Program

More than 1,000 kids participate in Core Golf & Life Skills classes on golf courses each year. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with character-building curriculum, we create learning experiences that help kids create friendships, develop strengths, and build self-confidence for use in everything they do.



In-School Golf & Life Skills Program

We provide local educators at elementary and middle schools in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties with training, age-appropriate equipment, and a golf curriculum that enhances social-emotional learning (SEL) skills. Through this effort, we expose more than 17,000 kids annually to the game of golf.



Community Outreach Program

Every year, our coaches deliver Golf & Life Skills Curriculum to hundreds of kids through community partner organizations who share our mission to positively impact the lives of local young people. We supply coaches, equipment, and flexible lesson plans that can be adapted to any location, age group, or skill level.



Pathfinder Immersion Program

In 2021, we launched a golf and STEM immersion program that provides impactful year-round experiences for students on the brink of success. Participants—who are nominated by mentors, teachers, or coaches—enter the program the summer before 6th grade and continue through high school. They meet Monday-Friday during the summer and on Saturdays during the school year for various enrichment activities.

“We love the positivity of the coaches and how they make golf fun as well as teach important life skills!” – Ashley V. | First Tee Parent

“First Tee is helping [kids] understand they are responsible for their future, and they need to learn from and respect adults who can help them” – Cornelia W. | First Tee Parent

On-Course Program Locations

Berkeley Country Club, Charleston Municipal Golf Course, The Club at Pine Forest, Dunes West Golf & River Club, Patriots Point Golf Links, Shadowmoss Golf Club, Wescott Golf Club

In-School Program Locations

A.C. Corcoran Elementary, Ashley River Creative Arts, Berkeley Elementary, Berkeley Preparatory Academy, Boulder Bluff Elementary, Cainhoj Elementary, Carolina Voyager, Charleston Development Academy, Charleston Progressive Academy, Chicora Elementary, Compass Collegiate Academy, East Cooper Montessori, E.L. Frierson, Foxbank Elementary, Goodwin Elementary, Goose Creek Elementary, Hunley Park Elementary, Hursey Elementary, James B. Edwards Elementary, James Island Elementary, Julian Mitchell School of Math and Science, Ladson Elementary, Lambs Elementary, Marrington Elementary, Meeting Street Academy, Montessori Community, Mount Zion Elementary, Murray-LaSaine Elementary, North Charleston Elementary, North Charleston Creative Arts, Oakland Elementary, Orange Grove Charter, Pepperhill Elementary, Phillip Simmons Elementary, Pinehurst Elementary, Sanders-Clyde Elementary, Springfield Elementary, St. James Santee Elementary, St. John Catholic School, Stiles Point Elementary, Westview Primary, Whitesville Elementary

Community Outreach Partners

Be A Mentor, Beyond Our Walls/Dominion Youth Inc., Camp Happy Days, Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission, Charleston Promise Neighborhood, City of Charleston Recreation Department, City of Charleston Therapeutic Recreation, City of North Charleston Recreation Department, Family Connection of South Carolina, Four Rivers Development Corporation, Kids on Point, Lowcountry Autism Foundation, Royal Foundation “I AM” Male Mentorship Program and Summer Camp, Special Olympics South Carolina

7

On-Course
Program Locations

43

In-School Program
Locations

14

Community
Partners



22,933 Kids + Teens Served



1,193 On-Course Participants

Enrollment +2% vs 2023



1,155 Community Outreach Participants

2 community partners added



20,585 In-School Participants

6 schools added



27 Pathfinder Immersion Participants

Enrollment +23% vs 2023

“First Tee allows my son to play a sport that would otherwise be cost prohibitive for us.”

- Jordan M. | First Tee Parent

97%

Kids Who Participated at No Cost



90%

Parents Who Believe We Offer Unique Opportunities

According to 2024 parent surveys, the majority of program participants experienced personal growth:

95% Improved Confidence

76% Are More Responsible

85% Improved Social Skills

74% Improved Coping Skills

83% Are More Goal Oriented

98% Improved Golf Skills



“The coaches were truly incredible. So kind, knowledgeable, and made sure the kids had fun while learning about golf and life.”

- Devin C. | First Tee Parent



Tools of the Trade

\$27,000 Post-Secondary Scholarships
100 Sets of Clubs
4,700 Rounds of Free Golf
125 Volunteers
3 Buses



Cost of Impact

Programming & Support	\$ 1,029,701
Fundraising & Marketing	\$ 486,025
Total	\$ 1,515,726



Participant Spotlight

Meet Zach

After a devastating leukemia diagnosis at the age of 10, Zach faced surgery, more than 100 chemotherapy treatments, and an adverse reaction to chemotherapy resulting in osteonecrosis in his ankles, legs and wrists. Pain, swelling, and muscle weakness confined him to a wheelchair for 9 months and limited his mobility in the years to follow. Physical activity became an extremely difficult albeit necessary part of his recovery. In 2022, Zach picked up a golf club for the first time and was instantly hooked. It provided a way for him to re-gain independence and step away from the stress of treatment. He is now in remission and honing his golf and social skills on-course...

“He loves First Tee. He has made friends and the staff is great. It has been wonderful to see him out having fun!”

- Lisa J. | First Tee Parent

How We Reach Kids

Our kids are building interpersonal skills through social events and networking groups.



Mini Mentor Cup

This annual mini golf tournament at Charleston Fun Park encourages meaningful mentor/mentee connections with adult/child teams and a playful best ball format. The tournament reinforces Core Values and fundamental golf practices such as courtesy on a crowded course and honesty in scorekeeping. Participants also enjoy social time at the snack bar and in the arcade.



Champions Cup

This annual Golf & Life Skills tournament, sponsored by the Henry & Sylvia Yaschik Foundation, celebrates In-School Program participation. Many of the students who play the event have never visited a golf course before. In addition to exposing children to a new environment, this event is designed to reinforce Core Value curriculum.



Girls Golf

Girls Golf brings female participants from various program locations throughout the Charleston Area together for golf games and social activities, like Girls Night Out events sponsored by Renwick. The goal is to promote long-term female engagement in On-Course and Immersion Programs by fostering friendships and connections with female coaches/mentors.



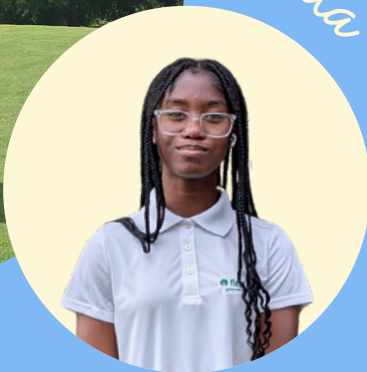
Teen Advisory Council

Teen participants from various program locations throughout the Charleston Area meet routinely to share their program experiences, influence improvements, enjoy in team-building activities, and participate in service projects like holiday shopping for Immersion Program participants.

“There are so many opportunities for these children... First Tee keeps them working toward their goals and helps make them stronger individuals.” – Jackie M. | First Tee Parent



Nahla



Jamie



Participant Spotlight

Meet Nahla & Jamie

In summer 2021, we launched a unique pilot program for rising sixth graders on the brink of success. Eight program participants were nominated by teachers, coaches, and mentors to participate in year-round golf and STEM enrichment activities.

A pilot program no more, the Pathfinder Immersion Program has grown to serve 28 students in grades 6, 7, 8, and 9. In 2024, two participants celebrated a major milestone. Nahla joined the Stratford High Ladies Golf Team, and Jamie joined the Fort Dorchester Ladies Golf Team. These are the first Pathfinders to engage in competitive play.

“First Tee has done wonders for Jamie’s character... She is motivated more than ever to succeed.”

- LaDavia J. | First Tee Parent

Get Involved

Join us in Building Game Changers by donating time, treasure, and talent.



Volunteer

You don't need to be a golf pro to volunteer with us, just a passion for helping young people! Volunteers are needed for specific events, like Champions Cup and Mini Mentor Cup, and they also serve as Assistant Coaches. Coaching opportunities are typically 1-1.5 hours per week for an 8-week season (spring, summer, or fall). Mentors are also needed for our Pathfinder Immersion Program. Mentors and mentees typically meet once a month.

Donate

We are an independently operated 501(c)3 that relies on generous community support. Please consider a gift! **Corporate Sponsorships** and **First Tee Ambassadors** (individuals donating as little as \$10 a month or \$120 a year) play an especially important role in sustaining our mission and planning for the future.

Join YAC

YAC is a golfing social club focused on supporting the mission and programs of First Tee - Greater Charleston. Members pay an annual due, participate in fundraising campaigns, volunteer at least once a year, and receive invitations to exclusive networking and golf events.

More Ways to Partner

Photographers, doctors, lawyers, construction companies, and financial institutions are just a few examples of the individuals and organizations who have helped us plan fundraising events and execute dynamic enrichment activities for kids. **Email Conor@FirstTeeCHS.org to explore available opportunities.**



Board of Directors

Rich Hale, President
Kelly Lyle, Vice President
Thomas Wagoner, Treasurer
Reeves Skeen, Secretary
Juan Acevedo
Keith Barringer
Aaron Brewer
Richard Daudelin
Paul Heinauer
Cynthia Hubbard-Schools
Jim Mackey
Kelvin Moore
Bob Moran
Betty Palmer
Scott Peevy
Derek Ramsey
Nick Schreiber
Nick Schumacher
Phil Tralies
Mary Yarbrough

Staff

Bucky Dudley, PGA
Chief Executive Officer
Kendall Flock
Marketing Director
Lerone Johnson, Sr.
Community Outreach Director
Amy Kissell
Gift & Data Manager
Conor O'Rourke
Philanthropy Director
Meghan Taylor
Program Director
Jensen Tomberlin
Program Manager

Board of Advisors

Alex Andrews
Michael Baker
Reid Banks
Dr. John Boatwright
Lea Anne Brown
Charles Darby
Tommy Hall
Ry Hudnall
David Hudson
Gregory Keating
Candice Kenan
Cartter Lupton, II
Patrick McKinney
Frank Norvell
Jordan Phillips
Russ Playford
Chris Randolph
Joseph Rice
John Rivers, Jr
Roger Warren

Honorary Advisors

Congressman James E. Clyburn
Darius Rucker
Matthew Sloan

Chairman Emeritus

Joel Willis, Jr.

First Tee - Greater Charleston
321 Wingo Way, Suite 201
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
843-864-4200
FirstTeeCHS.org
Tax ID 20-3959266

Thank You
Legacy Partners

