

2025-2026

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 talk to 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 golf course, in the classroom, and in every other facet of life. Thank you to the many, generous individuals and organizations who help us give that gift to Charleston Area young people.

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.

Key Commitments

Pursuing goals
Growing through challenge
Collaborating with others
Building positive self-identity
Using good judgment

Core Values

Confidence
Courtesy
Honesty
Integrity
Judgment
Perseverance
Respect
Responsibility
Sportsmanship

Programs

How We Serve Kids

We provide golf-based character education programs at golf courses, in schools, and through community partner organizations across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties.



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 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). Through this effort, we expose more than 20,000 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

This robust golf and STEM immersion program provides impactful year-round experiences for students on the brink of success. Participants 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.

Additionally, we offer networking and advanced play opportunities such as Girls Golf, Teen Advisory Council, and PGA Junior League. Post secondary education scholarships are also available to program alumni.

On-Course Program Locations



In-School Program Locations

A.C. Corcoran Elementary, Angel Oak Primary, Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, Berkeley Elementary, Berkeley Preparatory Academy, Boulder Bluff Elementary, Cainhoy Elementary, Cape Romain Environmental Education Charter, Carolina Voyager, Charleston Development Academy, Charleston Progressive Academy, Chicora Elementary, Compass Collegiate Academy, Daniel Island School, East Cooper Montessori, E.L. Frierson Elementary, Foxbank Elementary, Goodwin Elementary, Goose Creek Elementary, H.E. Bonner Elementary, Hunley Park Elementary, Hursey Elementary, James B. Edwards Elementary, James Island Elementary, Johns Island Elementary, Julian Mitchell Elementary, Ladson Elementary, Lambs Elementary, Marrington Elementary, Meeting Street - Burns Elementary, Montessori Community School, Murray-LaSaine Elementary, North Charleston Elementary, North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary, Oakland Elementary, Orange Grove Charter, Pepperhill Elementary, Pinehurst Elementary, Sanders-Clyde Elementary, Springfield Elementary, St. Andrews Math & Science Elementary, St. James Santee Elementary, St. John Catholic School, Stiles Point Elementary, Sullivan's Island Elementary, Westview Primary, Whitesville Elementary

Community Outreach Partners

Be A Mentor, Beyond Our Walls/Dominion Youth Inc., Camp Happy Days, Camp Rise Above, Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission, Charleston Promise Neighborhood, City of Charleston Recreation Department, City of Charleston Therapeutic Recreation, City of North Charleston Recreation Department, 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**

47

**In-School Program
Locations**

14

**Community
Partners**



2025 Impact

26,503 Kids & Teens Served



1,205 On-Course Participants

Enrollment +.04% vs 2024



1,173 Community Outreach Participants

2 community partners added



24,093 In-School Participants

4 schools added



32 Pathfinder Immersion Participants

Enrollment +2% vs 2024

"Thank you for making golf more accessible to more kids!"

Sharon M. | First Tee Parent

"First Tee teaches my daughter about confidence, patience, and grit."

Summer K. | First Tee Parent

97%

Kids Who Participated at No CC test

90%

Parents Who Believe We Offer Unique Opportunities



According to 2025 parent surveys, the majority of program participants experienced personal growth after working with First Tee coaches...

96% Improved Confidence

78% Improved Coping Skills

86% Are More Goal Oriented

75% Are More Responsible

84% Improved Social Skills

100% Improved Golf Skills

"It's a great program that constantly reinforces self esteem and self awareness."

Robbie R. | First Tee Parent



Tools of the Trade

9 Post-Secondary Scholarships
100 Sets of Clubs
125 Volunteers
3 Buses



Cost of Impact

Programming & Support	\$ 1,248,367
Fundraising & Marketing	\$ 442,537
Total	\$ 1,690,904



Special Events + Networking Groups

More Ways to Play

Our program participants are forming friendships and developing interpersonal skills through tournaments 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.



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. 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 team-building activities, and participate in service projects like holiday shopping for Pathfinder Immersion Program participants.

Additionally, program participants are eligible for unique play and travel opportunities through the national First Tee network.

Program Spotlight

Thriving On & Off the Course

In 2025, we utilized Hello Insight, a youth-friendly survey platform, to assess social emotional capacities for Pathfinder Immersion Program participants, students ages 11+ who are engaged in year-round golf and STEM curriculum. Hello Insight assessments are benchmarked against national data from 500,000+ youth across 6,000 programs, and the results indicate our young people are developing capacities (short-term outcomes) that promote thriving (long-term well-being, academic success, and career readiness).

Expanding Interests



8 in 10

5% Above the National Benchmark

75% of young people reported that adults involved in the Pathfinder Immersion Program helped expand their interests.

Academic Self-Efficacy



8 in 10

7% Above the National Benchmark

81% of young people reported that Pathfinder Immersion Program curriculum influenced their perceived ability to learn new things and master skills.

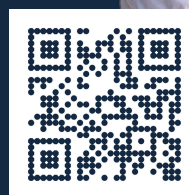
Self Confidence



9 in 10

20% Above the National Benchmark

89% of young people in our Pathfinder Immersion Program developed a positive sense of self after working with Frist Tee coaches.



Scan or visit FirstTeeCHS.org/pathfinder to learn more

Program Spotlight

Transportation Triumphs

In 2025, 82 young people received routine transportation to the golf course on a First Tee bus. Thanks to generous community support and some amazing chaperones, we were able to serve 10 after-school groups (50 students) from Oakland Elementary, Mt. Zion Elementary, Compass Collegiate Academy, A.C. Corcoran Elementary, Meeting Street Academy, and Chicora Elementary on a weekly basis over the spring and fall seasons. Participants in our Pathfinder Immersion Program (32 students) also received rides to golf courses and enrichment activities on Saturdays throughout the school year and Monday through Friday during the summer.



82 Kids & Teens Transported to
400+ Hours of Programming

"The bus transportation has been awesome. It allows students who may not have after school transportation the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity."

April Blanton, PE Coach | Oakland Elementary



Get Involved

Join us in Building Game Changers by sharing your time, treasure, and talent!



Volunteer

You don't need to be a golf pro to volunteer with us; you just need 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. Mentors are also needed for our Pathfinder Immersion Program.



Donate

We are an independently operated 501(c)3 that relies on generous community support. Please consider a personal gift or corporate sponsorship. Monthly or annual gifts play an especially important role in sustaining program growth. We also accept used golf equipment!



Join YAC

YAC is a golfing social club focused on supporting the mission and programs of First Tee - Greater Charleston. Members pay annual dues, participate in fundraising campaigns (like our 100 Hole Golfathon), volunteer at least once a year, and receive invitations to exclusive networking and golf events.

There are many ways to partner with us. Email Conor@FirstTeeCHS.org to explore additional opportunities.

Register a Child

Register a child for our On-Course Golf & Life Skills Program at FirstTeeCHS.org/register.



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Special Thanks to Our Legacy Partners

