



The First Tee of Canton Parent Handbook

Mission Statement:

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.

The First Tee Nine Core Values

Integrity
Honesty
Sportsmanship
Perseverance
Respect
Courtesy
Confidence
Judgment
Responsibility

The First Tee Nine Healthy Habits

Energy
Play
Safety
Vision
Mind
Family
Friends
School
Community

THE FIRST TEE OF CANTON STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Angela Palomba - Executive Director – apalomba@thefirstteecanton.org

Terry Taylor - Program Director, Golf Professional – ttaylor@thefirstteecanton.org

Joel Bankert – Outreach Coordinator (volunteers) – jbankert@thefirstteecanton.org

Carin Herberghs - Administrative Assistant – cherberghs@thefirstteecanton.org

TBD – Course Maintenance

<http://www.thefirstteecanton.org>

The First Tee of Canton
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admin@thefirstteecanton.org

330-452-5331

ABOUT US

The First Tee of Canton is a non-profit, youth development facility and learning center that provides young people an opportunity to learn life enhancing values, character development and healthy habits through the game of golf. In 2017, we impacted over 10,000 kids in our community.

The First Tee of Canton is a chapter owned and operated nine-hole, par-3 golf course with irrigated fairways and synthetic Tour Turf greens. The facility has a putting green and a 17 station driving range. The Deuble Learning Center includes a heated and air-conditioned golf practice space including hitting mats, putting green and two state-of-the art simulators. Our facility also has a multi-purpose, educational space with a small kitchen and educational smartboard.

THE FIRST TEE LIFE SKILLS EXPERIENCE

The First Tee teaches young people life skills and character education through the game of golf. Its research-proven programs are having a positive impact on participants, their families and their communities.

The First Tee of Canton is one of 150 chapters that collectively deliver programs at more than 1,200 golf locations around the United States and in select international locations. The First Tee of Canton delivers its life skills curriculum to young people ages 5 to 18 at The First Tee of Canton Learning Center and various golf course partners. The First Tee of Canton coaches go through The First Tee's extensive training (eLearning and in-person), helping to increase the on- and off-course success of all participants. The phased, educational

and experiential training program takes approximately two to three years to complete. As a result, our coaches are equipped to create positive relationships that inspire young people to look to their future, set goals and discover their individual potential.

Programs are also delivered through outreach partners including the National School Program at twenty-eight elementary schools, DRIVE at eleven YMCA locations, and various field trip opportunities for other youth-serving organizations.

The First Tee Life Skills Experience focuses on educating youth on The First Tee Nine Core Values and Nine Healthy Habits. The Core Values are delivered seamlessly through utilizing the game of golf. Golf serves as an ideal context for youth character education because acquiring golf skills requires confronting challenges and a commitment over time. Moreover, golf has many rules, some are technical and many are reliant upon the qualities of character embodied in The First Tee's Nine Core Values. Golf is the only game where a referee does not call the penalty. The golfer, not a referee, is required to report a rules infraction and apply the penalty to him or herself.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The primary purpose of The First Tee Certification is to ensure that every participant certified at the PLAYer, Par, Birdie, and Eagle levels has acquired the necessary levels of golf and life skills proficiency. See below for the requirements. All playing certifications must be scheduled with Terry Taylor in advance.

Each year we celebrate the participants that certify to the next level at our Core Value Awards banquet. Typically, the banquet is held the first Thursday in November.

Target

Introduction to The First Tee Life Skills Experience and for participants 5 and 6 years old. This level focuses on teaching safety and having fun.

PLAYer

PLAYer is the introductory level of The First Tee Life Skills Experience. Participants, age 7-18, who are new to The First Tee, should be registered for this level. PLAYer teaches participants how to play the game with special emphasis on learning golf, The First Tee Code of Conduct and The First Tee Nine Core Values™. These interpersonal skills will help participants develop much more than just their golf game.

Requirements to advance to Par:

- Pass written golf and life skills assessment
- Play The First Tee of Canton golf course and keep their score accurately
- PLAYer yardage book must be completed and turned in to Coach Terry
- Minimum of 9 years of age for Par

Par

The Par Level builds on the PLAYer level by introducing participants to life skills that will help them both on and off the golf course. The focus of the Par Level is to assist participants in acquiring several self-management techniques and interpersonal skills that will help them in managing their thoughts, emotions, and behavior in order to perform well both on and off the golf course.

Requirements to advance to Birdie:

- Pass written golf and life skills assessment
- Play The First Tee of Canton golf course with a score of 48 or under
- 9-Hole putting assessment of under 21 putts
- Chip at three locations with a score of under 12
- Hit 3 out of 6 greens from 75 yards
- Par yardage book must be completed and turned in to Coach Terry
- Minimum of 11 years of age for Birdie

Birdie

The Birdie Level focuses primarily on goal setting. The Birdie Level curriculum teaches developing goals, goal ladders (plans/steps to achieving goals) and how to deal with challenges when faced with adversity. The golf skills focus on advanced putting and short game skills, course management and more intensive instruction in the rules of golf. Students will develop goals for their golf game and work to achieve them.

Requirements to advance to Eagle:

- Pass written golf and life skills assessment
- Contact Terry Taylor for additional requirements
- Birdie yardage book must be completed and turned in to Coach Terry
- Minimum of 13 years of age for Eagle

Eagle

The Eagle Level focuses on health and wellness, building a support team, dealing with conflicts, appreciating diversity, and planning. Students will focus on getting the most out of their practice sessions, learning to self-check their swings, improving accuracy and course management.

Requirements to advance to Ace:

- Pass written golf and life skills assessment
- Contact Terry Taylor for additional requirements
- Eagle yardage book must be completed and turned in to Coach Terry
- Minimum age 15 or 9th grade for Ace

Ace

The Ace Level focuses on personal planning and reinforces interpersonal communication, self-management, goal setting, self-coaching, and resilience skills that were applied in the earlier levels of The First Tee Life Skills Experience. Ace Level participants are given several projects to work on throughout their sessions regarding planning for the future and giving back to the community.

REGISTRATION

Please register your participant(s) through our online registration portal. Go to www.thefirstteecanton.org and select register. If your child has already been in our classes, please do not create a new account. Type in your email and password to log in. If you do not remember your password, type in your email then select

forgot password. You can add all of your children to your household and track their progress to see what classes they are eligible.

During the registration process, you will be required to agree to our waivers and releases. If you have questions on those releases, please contact our Executive Director. The Lindsay's Law is a new state law for all youth sports organizations. Participants and parents must sign off on the forms prior to being eligible to participate in classes.

PROGRAM FEES

There is a program fee, but our goal is that no child will be denied participation due to financial considerations: any family needing a scholarship may request assistance whether it be partial or full. We have scholarship applications available on our website. Please visit our website to review the current class fees or contact our office with any questions. If a registration is cancelled, 10% of the total cost of programming fees will be retained by The First Tee of Canton.

Discounts are available for participants that sign up for both summer sessions and for families with more than two children. Please contact our Executive Director with assistance in getting the discounts set up.

SCHEDULE

Please drop off/pick up your child(ren) on time. If you are going to be late, please contact our office at 330-452-5331 x 0. Most classes last an hour and a half.

The First Tee of Canton golf course is not open to public use at this time. However, we do allow participants in the program to play and/or practice when we do not have programs schedule. Please contact our office if you are interested in scheduling a time to play outside or to use the indoor facility and simulators. We do have facility rentals available if you are interested in renting the course, pavilion or indoor space for events and/or parties. Please contact our Executive Director for more information.

COMMUNICATION

We communicate mostly through emails so please check them often. Information is also posted on our Facebook page and website (www.thefirstteecanton.org). Each month we send out an e-newsletter with important information and updates. If you do not receive the newsletter, contact our office to be added.

GOLF EQUIPMENT

The participant does not need his or her own golf equipment to participate in The First Tee Program. If a participant does not have clubs, we will provide equipment for them to use during class. The participant therefore agrees that any golf equipment received for their use is the property of The First Tee of Canton and must be returned to The First Tee of Canton after each class.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

We rarely cancel class due to inclement weather. Please make sure your child has proper attire for the current weather situation. If necessary, class will be held indoors in our indoor putting facility. If classes need to be cancelled due to an extreme weather situation, we will contact you by phone or email.

DRESS CODE

Boys-shirts must be tucked in, hats on straight and no derogatory words or pictures. Tennis shoes or golf shoes are required. No sandals or flip-flops.

Girls- shirts must have a collar or sleeves, no spaghetti straps or tank tops. Shorts must be an appropriate length (fingertip). Tennis shoes or golf shoes are required. No sandals or flip-flops.

VOLUNTEERS/COACHES

Committed and hardworking volunteers are the backbone of our instruction. One volunteer/coach is required for every five children enrolled. Volunteers attend training through required instructional classes and are required to have a FBI/BCI background screen check. The majority of our volunteers are college students, teachers, coaches, senior golfers and business professionals. At times, we will utilize our advanced Birdie and Eagle participants to volunteer with the PLAYer and Par classes.

Parents are great volunteers! Please contact our Outreach Coordinator if you are interested in volunteering for programs, facilities (i.e. mowing, weeding, etc.) or administrative.

THE FIRST TEE OF CANTON JUNIOR TOUR

The First Tee of Canton operates and manages a competitive junior tour throughout Stark County and surrounding areas each summer. The tour is for boys and girls from 10 – 18 years of age. This tour is not for beginner golfers. See our website for additional information about the tour including schedule and fees.

THE FIRST TEE NATIONAL PROGRAMS

A/B Honor Roll: All The First Tee of Canton participants receiving an A/ B average on their report cards are eligible to be recognized with a certificate from The First Tee Home Office. The A/B honor Roll program encourages all participants to excel academically and to stay on track for eligibility in the scholars program. Twice annually, the chapter reports a list of qualifying participants to The First Tee home office, who creates award certificates signed by Keith Dawkins, the chief executive officer of The First Tee. Please submit your report cards to admin@thefirstteecanton.org.

Participant Opportunities: Thanks to national corporate partners and generous donors, The First Tee is able to offer a variety of educational and leadership opportunities for participants each year. These events often become life-changing experiences for our participants as they further develop an awareness of possibilities that surround them. Please contact our Executive Director or Program Director for requirements and schedule.

We look forward to having your child in our program. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our staff with questions.

Be sure to follow us on social media.

- Facebook – The First Tee of Canton
- Instagram - FirstTeeCanton
- Twitter - @1teecanton
- LinkedIn – The First Tee of Canton