



## Nurturing the Next Generation

### Where golf meets growth

At First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin, we are excited to see our programs grow, especially among beginner golfers. With nearly a 25% increase in participants this year, more young people are stepping onto the course for the first time, and learning valuable life skills that will stay with them for a lifetime. To make this introduction as easy as possible, we offer access to equipment, welcoming environments, and caring coaches who help our participants build confidence and overcome challenges as they develop on and off the course.

Eileen Abitz, a parent of two beginner golfers, said, "My kids were asking to learn golf, and we didn't want to spend too much. The coaches were awesome, and it's amazing that we got clubs to keep. We will be back and have been recommending First Tee to everyone!" Our program offers an affordable and supportive entry into the sport, and allows for continued personal growth and development with year-round programming. As Tom Gerke, our chapter program director and a PGA Professional says, "Golf is just like anything else. You're not going to be an expert right away if you are learning for the first time. Our goal is to turn disappointment into motivation and not let the bad shots or a bad score on a test turn into a panic."

With your support, we continue to grow the game and inspire the next generation of leaders. Together, we are building a brighter future, one swing at a time.

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## Golf Clinics for a Cause

### Building bonds with Big Brother Big Sisters

Our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee continues to be a huge success thanks to our recent Golf 101 clinics. These sessions have brought kids and mentors together for hands-on golf lessons, creating lasting memories and stronger connections along the way.

Participants learned the basics of the game while building on the strong bonds they have formed with their mentors, as well as special guests from Marquette University's men's basketball team, including Kam Jones, Chase Ross, Tre Norman, and Zaide Lowery.

Thanks to this collaboration, we are proud to continue offering free access to Noyes Park for bigs and their littles, creating more opportunities for kids and mentors to grow together through the game of golf. Your support makes these initiatives possible, and helps us turn every swing into an opportunity for growth, friendship, and life lessons.



## Celebrating Community Support

### Summerfest & Milwaukee Public Market partnerships



The First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin community has been strengthened thanks to the support of two wonderful partnerships!

The IRON JOC Hole-in-One Challenge at Summerfest returned as a festival favorite, offering participants the chance to win \$5,000 after a made hole-in-one. For just \$10, golfers could tee up three balls, with a portion of the proceeds donated to First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin.



Additionally, we were honored to be the charitable partner for Dinky Links, a temporary mini-golf course at the Milwaukee Public Market. Individuals and groups enjoyed an hour of play for \$20, with all proceeds supporting First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin.

These funds help us to continue to build life skills in kids and teens, and allow us to strengthen our impact and reach even more young golfers in our community.



## Volunteer Spotlight

**Louie  
Busalacchi**

**What has been the most rewarding part about volunteering with First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin?**

When a child grabs a golf club and they don't know the first thing to do, you get to see the enthusiasm on their face when you teach them a couple of simple steps, and low and behold they hit a good shot. You see a sense of accomplishment within themselves when they're walking away compared to when they first got there like, "I can do this."

**What would you say to a prospective volunteer?**

I would tell a volunteer to understand the mission and understand what the sport means in terms of integrity, honesty, perseverance, and all those skills that we take into life. When volunteers see that and correlate that to the message they're trying to give kids, the deliverable becomes very unique.



## Alcott School

The Alcott Middle School Golf Club, led by Joe Gaffke, a First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin coach and special education teacher at Alcott School, began as an after-school initiative to offer a positive outlet for middle schoolers who needed structure and support after school.

"The club is about building relationships and mentoring students. It's a great opportunity to give kids something positive, even if it's only for a couple of hours each week," says Gaffke.

Thanks to support from people like you, the club has become a space for kids to build relationships, develop life skills, and find mentorship. As Gaffke says, "It's not just about golf, it's about how this can affect other areas of their lives."



## Summer Scenes

Clockwise From Top Left: PGA Junior League at Noyes Park GC, Emerging Leaders' Club Meetup, Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, Fellowship Youth Clinic, FIT Club MKE



## Did you know?

- First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin has given 193 golf sets to participants and MPS student-athletes this golf season
- 2023 marked the most amount of rounds played at Noyes Park Golf Course with 3,234 rounds played since 2015
- A new program location was added at Washington Park Municipal Golf Course in Kenosha
- 29,497 students were reached during the 2023-24 school year through active school program partners
- 90% of alumni consider themselves to be lifelong golfers

# Healthy County Challenge

## Community comes together for a day at Noyes Park Golf Course

On August 3, First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin, Milwaukee County Parks, and County Executive David Crowley hosted the Healthy County Challenge, a vibrant community event, at Noyes Park Golf Course. The day brought golfers of all ages together for free golf, featuring a ceremonial tee shot by Crowley. Highlights included a Course Record Challenge, free golf lessons by PGA Professional Scott Walecki, and music by DJ Q-Ball.



*"First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin has been a committed partner of Milwaukee County Parks and is integral in making golf accessible and approachable for everyone, regardless of skill or experience level."*

**David Crowley,**  
Milwaukee County Executive

## Make a Lasting Impact

While most of our support comes from donations, sponsorships, and grants, we hope you'll also consider the impact you can make with a legacy gift to support our kids. No matter what your age, or goals, planned giving ensures the greatest impact for us and the greatest tax and financial benefits to you.

For more information, visit [firstteesew.org/get-involved](https://firstteesew.org/get-involved) or contact David Cohn, Executive Director, at 414-443-3575 or [dcohn@firstteesew.org](mailto:dcohn@firstteesew.org).



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**Building Game Changers**

### Mission

Our mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

### Vision

Our vision is that **all** kids in Southeast Wisconsin have the opportunity to build their strength of character through the game of golf.