



From Noyes Park to Whistling Straits

How First Tee helped shape a Wisconsin PGA Champion

David Bach remembers the trailer at Noyes Park with clubs on the racks, gear on every shelf, and a staff that always welcomed a kid who kept coming back for more. He was eight years old, growing up in Brown Deer, and First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin had just introduced him to the game that would shape the rest of his life.

That kid is now the 1st Assistant Golf Professional at Whistling Straits, a four-time Wisconsin PGA Assistant Player of the Year, and the 2025 Wisconsin PGA Professional Champion. He is also a lead instructor at the Kohler Golf Academy, where he teaches hundreds of junior golfers each season and carries forward the same values and lessons he learned at First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin.

He has not forgotten where it all started. Bach said it simply, "What I remember so much from my days at First Tee is just how enjoyable this game can be."

To the kids at Noyes Park still finding their footing, he has a simple message: "If you would have told me at the age of 8 or 9 that I was going to be in the role that I am today at Whistling Straits, I wouldn't believe you. Keep at this game, and it will take you amazing places." He is living proof.

[Read more at firstteesew.org/stories](https://firstteesew.org/stories)

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Growth in the community

First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin brings the game of golf, and the life skills behind it, directly into schools. Through the First Tee School Program, we partner with educators to deliver golf-based curriculum that builds confidence, focus, and character right in the gym or classroom.

Our local programs reach 44,742 students across 112 active school partners, including La Casa de Esperanza. For many of these students, it's their first real introduction to the game. The numbers reflect reach, but what happens in those classrooms is personal: one student, one lesson, one small shift at a time. No golf course required. Just a commitment to meeting young people where they already are.



From first swings to big reactions: a day with First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin at La Casa de Esperanza.

Leading the Way

Development beyond the course

This winter, First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin partnered with PGA TOUR Superstore for our Leadership Series, bringing together five high school participants for five weeks of hands-on leadership development.

Students worked directly alongside mentors to complete personality assessments, explore careers, and build projects connecting their strengths to their future. More than career exploration, this program helps young people discover who they are and what kind of leader they want to be.



By the Numbers

Thanks to you, First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin is reaching more young people than ever before, and going deeper with each one. Every number below represents a real young person and a real investment in their future. Take a look at what your generosity has produced:

- 45,514 kids impacted through First Tee programs
- 772 young people reached through on-course programs in 2025, which is nearly double the 412 we served in 2018.
- 7,287 programming hours delivered last year
- 10.2 average hours spent per participant – because we are not just introducing kids to the game, we are walking alongside them
- 42,095 total hours of positive youth development delivered since 2018

Kappa League finds their swing

Bringing the game to life at PGA TOUR Superstore

First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin recently partnered with Kappa League for a junior golf event at PGA TOUR Superstore, and the afternoon delivered on every level.

Before picking up a club, participants sat down for a conversation about growing through challenge: the idea that obstacles on and off the course are often our greatest teachers. From there, the group toured the store, practiced on the putting green, and stepped into the simulator for full swings that brought high energy and big smiles.

For many of the kids, it was their first time in a space dedicated entirely to the game. The best part wasn't the simulator or the pizza, it was watching young people leave with a different relationship to the game and themselves than when they walked in, all thanks to your support.



New Board Member Spotlight

We're excited to welcome several new members to our Board of Directors. They were drawn to the work that you make possible every day. Here's what they want you to know about why they joined:



Michael Graft
Partner - RSM

"The skills First Tee builds: discipline, accountability, how to handle both success and failure; are the same ones I've looked for throughout my career. Investing in young people who are developing those qualities early is one of the smartest things a community can do."



J.J. Sisulak
Vice President, Finance - Douglas Dynamics

"Golf is a great way to connect with family, friends, and network professionally. I believe everyone should have the opportunity to create these connections. I am excited to help provide access to golf regardless of upbringing and background."



Nate Aushwitz
Vice President, Legal and Compliance - Canon Medical Systems USA

"I believe that there needs to be increased access to golf for youth for both the enjoyment of the game and the values it teaches. There is a tremendous opportunity to help teach life skills and character development to youth in our local communities."



Will Miller
Account Executive - Aon

"Every child deserves exposure to opportunities that show them positive approaches to life, regardless of their life at home. The game of golf is the perfect tool to assist with developing good character, and First Tee fills that need perfectly."

Supporter Q&A

Each year, donors like you are asked why they support First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin. Here's what they had to say this year:

"Great people, great mission, worthy of any golfer's attention!"

"You offer so much: the opportunity to be outdoors, engage in friendly competition, learn the values of honesty, integrity, and respect, practice socialization skills, and so much more."

"The investment in our community to support people learning and developing in a game that wouldn't otherwise have access is phenomenal."

Smiles at Children's

Some of our most meaningful programming doesn't happen on a course. Through our ongoing partnership with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, we bring interactive golf stations directly to patients: meeting young people where they are, on their terms. Time and again, this partnership reminds us that the game can show up anywhere and make a difference.



Join us at an upcoming event!

Summer Stampede

June 11, 2026

Tee to Green Golf Classic Pro-Am

July 13, 2026

Noyes Alternate Shot Challenge

August 13, 2026

Golf Marathons

Fall 2026

Learn More and Register Today



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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.