

# 2020 Parent Guide



Thank you for your participation! We look forward to helping your kids develop into quality golfers and even more important, quality young people.

The First Tee of Tucson Staff

[www.thefirstteetucson.org](http://www.thefirstteetucson.org)

520-628-1555

Honesty | Integrity | Sportsmanship | Respect | Confidence |  
Responsibility | Perseverance | Courtesy | Judgment

## KEY

(ER) = EL RIO

(CT) = CROOKED TREE

(SEW) = SEWAILO

(EC) = EL CONQUISTADOR

(GV) = COUNTRY CLUB GREEN VALLEY

(RD) = RANDOLPH

(49) = FORTY NINER

(RH) = ROLLING HILLS

(DL) = DEL LAGO

### NATIONALLY TRAINED COACHES

(ER) JEFF ZIEGLER, WAYNE MILLER, JAN MILLER

(SEW) GILBERT MORENO

(GV) JOHN HOFFMEIER

(49) LORI KAVANAUGH

(RH) JEREMY VAN TASSEL, RICH LADERA

(RD)

VICKY GONZALEZ

THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE ATTENDED A 3-DAY WORKSHOP CONDUCTED BY THE FIRST TEE HOME OFFICE TO LEARN THE PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING KIDS LIFE SKILLS THROUGH THE GAME OF GOLF

**Returning Participants** – If you are unsure of what level to register for, please contact one of our staff members. Our office records indicate which level your child has completed.

**New Participants** – Please take a few minutes to read about the program and the different levels. Please note all new participants age 7-17, regardless of skill level, will start in the PLAYer level. The Target level is for 5-6-year old's and is only offered at El Rio.

The pages in this guide provide descriptions of each level and how participant's progress.

Once a child has registered for/completed a session, they are eligible to receive a 2020-member card. This card grants specific practice and playing privileges throughout our program locations. This card is valid through the end of summer following high school graduation.

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW THE CALENDARS FOR EACH LOCATION –**

**LOCATIONS ARE LISTED UNDER THE “CALENDARS” TAB – ONCE YOU ARE ON THE PAGE FOR YOUR DESIRED LOCATION, PLEASE CLICK ON WHERE IT SAYS “CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE...”**

# PLAYer

## Prerequisites:

PLAYer is the introductory level to The First Tee program. This is where all new students, age 7-17 begin, regardless of golf skill level. The Teen Friday & Girl Power classes also count as PLAYer hours.

Participants must complete a total of 27 hours in the PLAYer level before being eligible to certify into Par. The certification process includes: knowing how to play 9 holes (no required score), completing a 9-hole putting test (no required score), (1) Golf Knowledge written test and (1) Life Skills written test.

The PLAYer level helps establish the foundation for young people to become life-long PLAYers of the game. As soon as participants enter The First Tee, they are exposed to how golf is played, have more fun learning skills of the game and are provided opportunities for appreciating the game for a lifetime. The P, L, A, and Y in the PLAYer level are depicted below.

**P – PLAY:** PLAYers experience and gain an understanding of the importance of play in skill acquisition as well as how using “Sports of All Sorts” and purposeful play can help generate and maintain an interest in golf.

**L – Learn:** PLAYers are introduced to the game through a series of games to enhance the acquisition of golf and life skills through The First Tee Code of Conduct and 9 Core Values.

**A – Appreciate:** PLAYers are exposed to the game of golf, including areas of the course and terms/vocabulary, as well as the etiquette and rules of the game

**Y – Your Game:** PLAYers are afforded the opportunity to develop and play their game through various developmentally-appropriate games/activities.

**Age Requirements:** 7-17 years old

**Cost:** \$10 per session

**Locations Available:** All

# PAR

## **Prerequisites:**

To enroll in a Par level class, participants must have successfully completed all certification requirements at the PLAYer level, including: completed yardage book, passed the 2 written tests and passed their golf skills assessment. In addition, they must meet the minimum age requirement of 9 years old.

**What we cover:** Par builds on the groundwork established at the PLAYer level. The main focus of the Par level is to assist participants with self-management techniques that help them manage their thoughts, emotions and behaviors to perform their best on and off the golf course. The focus is on internal self-management and this awareness helps provide the underpinnings for the external self-management and goal setting skills taught at the higher levels (Birdie and Eagle) of The First Tee program.

**Age requirements:** 9-17 years old

**Cost:** \$10 per session

**Locations Available:** El Rio, Crooked Tree, Sewailo, Country Club Green Valley, Randolph, Rolling Hills

# **BIRDIE**

## **Prerequisites:**

To enroll in a Birdie level class, participants must have successfully completed a minimum of 36 hours in Par and the certification process. The certification process includes: playing 9 holes & shooting a maximum score of 72 from 1,500-1,900 yards, completed a 9-hole putting course with a maximum of 27 strokes, completed a 3 hole up and down course with a maximum of 12 strokes and passed their (2) written tests.

**What we cover:** The Birdie level helps players learn to identify personal goals and develop strategies for reaching them. The classes help them set out practical and positive steps for making progress towards the future they envision. In addition, Birdie lessons equip participants with the tools they need to overcome challenges they face as they climb their "Goal Ladders."

**Age requirements:** 11-17 years old

**Cost:** \$10 per session

**Locations Available:** El Rio, Country Club Green Valley, Randolph, Rolling Hills

# EAGLE

## **Prerequisites:**

To enroll in an Eagle level class, participants must have successfully completed a minimum of 48 hours in Birdie and the certification process. This includes: submitting (5) 9-hole rounds with a score of 63 or better from 1,900-2,500 yards, 9 hole putting test with a maximum of 23 strokes, a 6 hole up and down course with a maximum of 21 strokes, hitting 3 out of 6 greens from 55-75 yards and the (2) written tests.

**What we cover:** The Eagle level reinforces and builds on all the lessons previously learned in The First Tee Experience. It introduces the idea of physical, mental, emotional and social wellness. Participants are encouraged to appreciate the diversity around them and are taught practical tips to solve problems and prepare for their futures beyond high school.

**Age requirements:** 13-17 years old

**Cost:** \$10 per session

**Locations Available:** El Rio, Rolling Hills

## **ACE PROGRAM**

Upon completion of the Eagle level, a participant is eligible for our ACE program. The ACE program is the highest level of The First Tee program. Please see the next page for an overview of ACE.

# ACE

**What is the ACE Program?** The ACE Program is the culmination of a student's participation in The First Tee program. Its purpose is to prepare students for life beyond high school. The ACE Program Coordinator will assist students as they work to complete a series of 4 projects.

**Project 1:** Enjoy Golf for Life: Students will examine their golf skills and determine "what is good about their game and what could be better." After assessing their game, they will work on a plan for improvement. Students will also examine whether they wish to pursue golf as a career or recreationally.

**Project 2:** Investigate Career Responsibilities: Students will explore their talents and interests and connect these with various careers they may find interesting. Students will also learn about searching for jobs, creating resumes and interviewing.

**Project 3:** Give Back: Students will engage in giving back to the broader community for a minimum of 50 hours. Students will draw upon a variety of life skills as they pursue activities in this area.

**Project 4:** Explore Educational Opportunities: Students will explore options related to college or other educational and vocational preparation alternatives beyond high school. Students will prepare a game plan for learning more about, or pursuing educational options that interest them.

## **Requirements for Ace Level Certification:**

- Participant must be 14 years old or entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Participant must have completed the PLAYer-Eagle levels
- Participant must spend at least 1-2 years on the project

Recognition and Rewards for being ACE Certified: Ace-certified is the highest level of certification at The First Tee. Ace-certified participants will receive local and national recognition, as well as various rewards from The First Tee Home Office and chapter.

## **Benefits of reaching the highest level of certification in The First Tee:**

- Achieving the top level of The First Tee Life Skills Experience (less than 1% of participants in the Network achieve Ace-certified level)
- Discovering a deeper understanding for personal college plans, career paths, and healthy and active lifestyle choices
- Recognized at a national level for accomplishment
- Featured in network publications, social media and website



## Certification (Progression)

**What is Certification?** Certification is a multi-part process that all students go through to demonstrate they are ready to move to the program's next level.

**PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE MOVING ON** – The First Tee program is not a race! It is intentionally designed for students to have multiple exposures at each level. Many students will not be old enough to advance after just one session... THIS IS NORMAL! A lot of these students will take part in certification activities. Practicing certification is a great opportunity to experience the process even though their results will not count towards their future progressions. By no means will a participant advance solely on golf skills.

1. **Minimum Age** – Each student must meet the minimum age requirement (no exceptions).
  - a. PLAYer – 7 – Minimum age to start our Life Skills Curriculum
  - b. Par – 9
  - c. Birdie – 11
  - d. Eagle – 13
  - e. Ace – 14
2. **Written Assessments** – Each student must pass a life skill and a golf knowledge written test. These focus on information covered in class and in the yardage books. This includes core values, life skills, golf etiquette and rules. Tests require a score of 80% or better to be considered passing. Should a child not reach a passing score on the first attempt, a second opportunity will be made available on the same day.
3. **Yardage Books** – Each student should complete as much material in their yardage book as their class covers. Questions should be answered thoroughly and thoughtfully. Yardage books will be checked in and then given back for future review.
4. **Golf Skills** – Each student will be required to demonstrate minimum levels of proficiency in regards to their golf abilities (putting, chipping, full swing, etc.)
5. **Coach Recommendation** – Each student must receive a recommendation from their current level coach before advancing. If a student's coach does not feel they are ready to advance, they will not be able to move on. Chapter staff will communicate directly with coaches to determine which students are able to certify.
6. **Advancement** – Once a participant has met all of the above criteria they will be moved up to the next level. The participant will attend their new classes at the beginning of the next session. A participant's online profile will be adjusted by the Chapter Staff.



# NATIONAL YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

The First Tee junior golf program doesn't just get kids on the course, it offers exciting opportunities for growth. With the help of The First Tee national corporate partners, more advanced participants can apply to attend these golf and leadership events. These events often become life-changing experiences. Youth meet new people, play golf, achieve greatness, and show our Nine Core Values in action.

In July 2019, Brock Nehls, a senior at University High School and an Eagle level participant in our program, attended the Life Skills & Leadership Academy at Boise State University. Each year nearly 100 junior golfers from First Tee attend this great opportunity. Teen participants have the chance to develop and hone skills to become leaders in their chapters, schools and communities while experiencing championship golf, career exploration and dorm living.



"The entire experience was life changing. Getting to meet people my age from all across the country, who share my same passion of golf, was an opportunity I am immensely grateful for. Without The First Tee of Tucson, none of these great opportunities would have been possible." – Brock Nehls

## **HOW CAN TEENS TAKE THE NEXT STEP?**

These opportunities are only available to youth involved in chapters of The First Tee. Most of the events and programs have a selection process that includes an application reviewed by a committee. Parents, if you want your child to participate, please inquire with our chapter.

Only participants who are in the Birdie, Eagle or Ace levels are eligible to apply for the National Opportunities.

### **RECOGNITION:**

#### **A/B Honor Roll Recognition**

Encourages all participants to excel academically and to stay on track for eligibility in The First Tee Scholars Program.

#### **The Scholars Program**

This distinction is awarded to participants who are seniors in high school and excel in academics, leadership, character development and chapter and community involvement. A limited number of scholarships are available each year and are awarded after the class is designated.

To learn more about the national opportunities please visit

<https://thefirsttee.org/programs/youth-opportunities/>

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- All registrations must be completed online. Please click REGISTER on the top right of the web page – [www.thefirstteetucson.org](http://www.thefirstteetucson.org)
- Classes fill on a First Come-First Serve basis. We keep a 6:1 Participant to Coach ratio for safety purposes
- Annual Membership required – \$25 – includes a collared shirt and hat with our logo
- Each session, no matter how long, costs \$10 for the entire session
- Financial Aid is available and can be requested during the checkout process online
- If you have trouble with your account please email or Vicky Gonzalez– [vicky@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:vicky@thefirstteetucson.org)
- Equipment is not required for classes; however, we do ask that you send your child every time with a hat, water bottle, and sunscreen applied.
- Parents/Guardians are not allowed in our activity area. Specific spectator areas will be noted before the start of a session begins.

## **TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS**

- Login or create your account
- Select a participant
- Select location
- Select class
- The checkout process will allow you to pay online with a card, submit financial aid or select a “pay in person” option
- Complete the registration process – your last page will show you the confirmation – if you do not get to this page, you did NOT complete the registration
- You will also receive an email confirmation

**The First Tee of Tucson/SAJGA/Ricki Rarick**  
**Practice & Playing Privileges 2020**



• **El Rio**

- **Practice:** For Free when staff member is present
- **Play:** Participant Free

• **Randolph**

- **Practice:** For Free when staff member is present
- **Play:** \$1 for 9- or 18-holes walking

• **All other Tucson City Golf Courses**

- **Play:** \$1 for 9- or 18-holes walking

• **Sewailo**

- **Practice:** For Free as long as they are accompanied by an adult – applying to anyone under the age of 16
- **Play:** For Free with paying adult OR \$25 for 16 & older kids who may be without an adult

• **Crooked Tree**

- **Practice:** For Free when staff member is present
- **Play:** For Free – 9 or 18 holes – tee times may not be made in advance – walk on only – October-May after 3:00pm & June-September after 11:00am

• **Rolling Hills**

- **Practice:** 1 free bucket of balls per day
- **Play:** For free when course is available

• **Forty Niner**

- **Practice:** \$3 for small bucket - \$7 for large bucket
- **Play:** \$5 to walk – additional \$8.50 to ride 9 holes or \$16 to ride 18 holes with an adult

• **Country Club Green Valley**

- **Practice:** TBD
- **Play:** TBD

• **Del Lago**

- **Practice** 25% off any size bucket of range balls & 10% off in the Restaurant
- **Play** TBD

• **El Conquistador**

- **Practice:** Free for youth after 3:00pm

**Subject to Availability**

To receive these privileges, the member must present their 2020 Member Card. These cards are given to active members only, 7-17 years old

## Competitive Playing Opportunities

The First Tee of Tucson is your one stop shop for junior golf in Southern Arizona! On top of facilitating programming at 9 golf courses, we also conduct junior tournaments throughout the year. We are home to the Tucson Conquistadores Junior Golf Program, which hosts the Southern Arizona Junior Golf Association (SAJGA) & the Ricki Rarick Junior Golf Program. Throughout the months of August-December and January-May, we host 1 tournament per month on a weekend. In June-July we host 8 tournaments, including one Adult/Jr event.

For more information on our tournament program please visit  
[www.tucsonjuniorgolf.com](http://www.tucsonjuniorgolf.com)

The First Tee of Tucson at El Rio has 4 teams for PGA Jr League. To be eligible to play, participants must be between the age of 7 to 13 and currently enrolled in a PLAYer level class or be certified into Par or above.

For more information on PGA Jr League please contact  
[vicky@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:vicky@thefirstteetucson.org)

The goal is to send every junior golfer in Southern Arizona through The First Tee program. We provide these fun and competitive avenues for those who wish to take their game to the next level.

The First Tee program is here to teach juniors Life Skills and Strategies so we can continue to build a better community and world. By attending classes, juniors will learn all of the ins and outs of golf, how to play, how to practice on their own, and what opportunities are available to them. If juniors wish to become a great golfer, they can use the practice drills, games and tips they learn in our classes, to practice on their own time. There are also PGA Professionals in Southern Arizona who give junior lessons on a regular basis. If you wish to get in touch with one of these professionals, please let us know.

To view a valuable document put together by The First Tee Home Office in regards to what it takes to play collegiate golf, please visit

[https://www.tucsonjuniorgolf.com/f/College Golf Road Map Second Edition -  
\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.tucsonjuniorgolf.com/f/College%20Golf%20Road%20Map%20Second%20Edition%20FINAL.pdf)

# **VOLUNTEER**

We are always looking for new volunteers!

Keep in mind we limit our class size based on how many coaches we have.

For every volunteer we add to a class, we can add 6 participants!

## **Requirements:**

- Complete an interview with The First Tee Staff
- Complete a background check
- Complete an in-person training
- Complete an online Assistant Coach Training/Child Protection Course

If you are a parent volunteering in the same class your child is in, we ask that you separate yourself from your child for the duration of class.

***Teen participants are highly encouraged to volunteer with our younger classes or during special events throughout the year***

To learn more please contact Volunteer Services Director,

Vicky Gonzalez

[vicky@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:vicky@thefirstteetucson.org)



## CONTACT US

The First Tee of Tucson Home Office is located at El Rio Golf Course. Our Learning Center building is on the practice range, immediately to your left as you drive in.

1400 W Speedway Blvd

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520-628-1555

- **Vicky Gonzalez, CAO, Participant & Volunteer Services Director**  
[vicky@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:vicky@thefirstteetucson.org)
- **Judy McDermott – Executive Director**  
[judymcd@tucsonconquistadores.com](mailto:judymcd@tucsonconquistadores.com)
- **Vicky Gonzalez – Randolph**  
[vicky@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:vicky@thefirstteetucson.org)
- **Gilbert Moreno – Sewailo Site Coordinator**  
[gilbert@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:gilbert@thefirstteetucson.org)
- **John Hoffmeier – Country Club Green Valley Site Coordinator**  
[john@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:john@thefirstteetucson.org)
- **Randy Montgomery – Forty Niner Country Club Site Coordinator**  
[randy@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:randy@thefirstteetucson.org)
- **Paul Arnaud – Crooked Tree Site Coordinator**  
[paul@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:paul@thefirstteetucson.org)
- **Jeremy Van Tassel – Rolling Hills Site Coordinator**  
[jeremy@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:jeremy@thefirstteetucson.org)
- **Michael Dorow– Del Lago Site Coordinator**  
[mike@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:mike@thefirstteetucson.org)
- **Richard Easley– El Conquistador Site Coordinator**  
[richard@thefirstteetucson.org](mailto:richard@thefirstteetucson.org)