

Par for the Course

The Quarterly Newsletter from The First Tee of Greater Akron



Fall 2017

“Inside the Ropes!”

With PGA Pro Jimmy Beers

The 2017 Golf Programs just finished up last week at Mud Run Golf Course and Driving Range with over 800 junior golfers in our classes this year. During the past 24 weeks, our Level 1 Life Skills Coaches Raymone Scott, Angel Whorton & Roland Pennington did a fantastic job preparing our junior golfers to become better people by teaching our kids the 9 CORE VALUES of The First Tee Curriculum.

I had the privilege and honor to mentor a PGA Intern here at our chapter. Kory Braman, a First Tee of Greater Akron Alumni, proved to be a huge asset to our junior golfers as he taught them the mechanics of the golf swing and how to confidently wear “Fancy Pants!”

Thanks to Brandywine Country Club in Peninsula, we were able to add a new Program Location and increase our participation by 32 junior golfers. Coaches Dave Krusinski & Jeff Walter did an amazing job as first year Level 1 Coaches.

Our 3rd consecutive year at our Cleveland Clinic Challenge Course Program Location has continued to strive with Level 2 Coach Jim Betty. I had the opportunity to help Jim Betty teach at this very special facility. A well-deserved Thanks to Ron Tristano, PGA Professional at The Challenge Course for all of your support.

Over the course of the 2017 season, we’ve found many ways to make golf fun and encourage the kids to engage. Our Epic season consisted of trick shot shows, smashing water balloons with our Drivers, doing “the wave” with golf swings, playing a wide variety of golf games and even hosted 2 different STEM related field trips. We were very

excited to see an abundance of positive energy at all of our golf sessions this season.

During the upcoming winter months, I look forward to working with our 40 plus elementary schools who offer our Nation School Program. This program reaches over 16,000 area youth during school hours by Physical Education teachers who are First Tee Certified. I always get excited when I attend some of these classes and share with the kids my love for the game of golf.

As the Program Director & PGA Professional, I had the most rewarding year in my 27 years as a Professional Golfer. The relationships I have formed with both the junior golfers and their parents will hopefully last a life time.

It is so fun to teach the junior golfers the game that I love the most! I am so proud I was able to change some of our kids’ lives one swing at a time!

Thank you for all of your support in 2017!

~Jimmy Beers

Program Director & PGA Professional





3rd Annual Law Enforcement Day

Greetings from the Independent Police Auditor!

On July 31, 2017, the First Tee of Greater Akron celebrated our 3rd Annual Law Enforcement Education Day (Putting with the Police). This year was again a great success. Six police agencies participated in the event. The agencies were the Akron Police Department, the Summit County Sheriff's Department, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Village of Lakemore Police Department, the Copley Police Department, and the Fairlawn Police Department.

Our day started at 8 AM with me and supervisors from Akron, Fairlawn, and Lakemore speaking with ESPN Radio. We focused on the importance of youth being involved with police officers and police officers being involved with the youth. At least one of the supervisors who attended enjoyed it so much that he asked that, if we do it again next year, if he could come again.

At 2 PM, our program started on the practice putting green. About forty students were present for this event. All of the departments lined their police vehicles along the edge of the greens. There were six stations set up throughout the greens and one or two police officers were at each station. As the youth went through the different stations, they had time to talk to the officers and learn about the officers as the officers learned about them.

At the end of the competition on the practice green, the students were allowed to go to each police car and sit in the driver's seat and operate lights, sirens, and the public announcement system.

During this program, when officers found a student who asked a good question, they were singled out and given a great prize, some of which were t-shirts, bicycle helmets, or badges. A few students indicated at the end how much fun they had and how they now want to be police officers when they get older. The students seemed to enjoy the event, and even more importantly, the officers enjoyed themselves and asked if they could return next year.



In closing, I would like to thank Executive Director Frank Stams, Program Director Jimmy Beers, and staff for their support as well as allowing us to have this event each year.

~Phillip Young, IPA

Mud Run Golf Course and Driving Range Fall/Winter Hours

Mud Run Golf Course and Driving Range is open all year. For their Fall and Winter rates, to schedule a tee time, or for more information, you can reach the course at 330-375-2728, or visit the website [here](#).

ACT with The First Tee

The First Tee of Greater Akron is pleased to announce the return of ACT with The First Tee. For the second year in a row, we have partnered with [The Public Tutoring Initiative](#) to hold American College Testing (ACT) preparatory classes for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders in Summit county. National recognized tutor [Mauri Artz](#) will be lead instructor for this winter programming.

Thanks to a generous grant from AT&T, we will be hosting 3 sessions this season. Our first session starts November 6, 2018, at Coventry High School. Session 2 starts the second week in January and will run for 5 weeks. Session 3 starts the week after Session 2 ends. Locations tba.



The First Tee of Greater Akron received a \$10,000 grant from AT&T for the ACT program. Pictured: (left to right) Frank Stams (Executive Director, The First Tee of Greater Akron), Barb Cassell (Northern Ohio Golf Charities) Vanessa A Drone (Reach Opportunity Center Manager) John Anderson (Northern Ohio Golf Charities) Mark Derrig (Northern Ohio Golf Charities) Stephen Kristan (AT&T) Al Jenkins (Public Tutoring Initiative) Bob Zwislser (Northern Ohio Golf Charities) Mauri Artz (Founder and President, The Public Tutoring Initiative)



Save the Date

Our Annual Executive Dinner will be March 22, 2018, at the Akron Fairlawn Hilton. Details will be announced soon.



Trick or Treat Trot 5k & Candy Dash

It was a cold and rainy day on Saturday, October 28, 2017. That didn't daunt the enthusiasm of the runners, walkers, children, parents and volunteers who made the Second Annual Trick or Treat Trot 5k and Candy Dash a success. Thank you!

Tee it up with Frank Stams

Welcome! to the inaugural edition of The First Tee of Greater Akron's Quarterly Newsletter.

With great passion for our mission and a desire to make a difference, The First Tee of Greater Akron has gone from approximately 200 children and young adults to now, in 2017, over 750.

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone that has contributed to our success the past three years. The Board of Directors, numerous foundations and individuals, staff, volunteers and friends have all, and continue to, make a difference in Summit County's youth through our mission of positively impacting the lives of boys and girls, 7-18 years old, with educational programming embedded in our 9 CORE VALUES through the game of golf.

We want to keep that momentum going and have a goal of 1,000 participants by the end of 2018. To do that, we will continue to need your help. So again, THANK YOU! and please continue to support us with donations, volunteerism or awareness.

~Frank Stams, Executive Director



Foundation Friends



AT&T

**Lois Sisler McFawn
Foundation**

- Betty V. & John M. Jacobson Foundation
- Charles E. & Mable M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation
- Glenn R. & Alice V. Boggess Memorial Foundation
- L.R. Moffitt & L.W. Moffitt Foundation
- Lloyd & Louise K. Smith Foundation



This is Par for the Course, the Quarterly Newsletter
for The First Tee of Greater Akron.

Follow us on Social Media:



The First Tee of Greater Akron

2000 S. Hawkins Ave.

Akron, OH 44314

330-375-2638

www.thefirstteeakron.org

info@thefirstteeakron.org
