

Par for the Course

The Quarterly Newsletter from The First Tee of Greater Akron



Winter 2018

Spring Break Camp and Spring Session dates announced

- Spring Break Camp will be April 3, 4 and 5
- Spring Session starts on April 23 and runs for 5 weeks.

Class dates and times, as well as registration, are on our [website](#). Registration opens on February 19.

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Fiesta For The First Tee was held on February 3, 2018 at Lock 3 in Akron. The Fiesta featured an all you can eat taco and dessert bar, putt-putt, sledding, ice skating and even door prizes.

Thank you to everyone who made the event a success including:

- Tish Jernigan, Chris Griffith, Jeanne Jordan from Lock 3;
- First Tee coaches Angel Whorton and Jim Betty;
- Jill Newman;
- Carole Collins for the great photos from the evening.



Carson (6) and Charley (9) enjoying Fiesta For The First Tee at Lock 3 on February 3, 2018



Coach Angel Whorton



Fiesta attendees



Jill Newman and Bob Knapp welcoming everyone

Inside the Ropes!

With PGA Pro and Program Director Jimmy Beers

Many parents always ask, Hey Pro, what do you do all winter?

In this edition of “Inside the Ropes” I thought I would highlight some of my off-season activities. In November, The National First Tee celebrated their 20-year Anniversary with a Huge Celebration and Gala combined with 5 days of Continuing Education Classes in Orlando, Florida. The class schedule provided multiple learning opportunities not only for me as a Program Director, but for Raymone Scott & Roland Pennington as certified Life Skill Coaches. The Honorary Chairman for The First Tee, President George W. Bush, was the main speaker during the Gala. President Bush spoke for a half hour on our Core Value “Responsibility” and how he was irresponsible in life as an avid alcoholic until the age of 40 when the birth of his children put his responsibilities back in order.

In December, I spent countless hours at my computer as our entire participant data was due to our National First Tee office by years end. We keep track of the number of participants, diversity of our participants, gender percentages, retention rates and progression rates of all of our 811 participants in 2017.

January kicked off our Social Media campaign called “[The First Tee of Greater Akron’s Friday Golf Tip of the Week!](#)” PGA Pro Dirk Hartman, PGA Intern Kory Braman, Level 2 Coach Jim Betty and I have all recorded quick one minute golf tips that we release on Fridays on our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). These Golf tips have helped keep our participants and parents engaged with our chapter during the off season.

“[Get Fit February](#)” launched on February 1st. This is a series of 5 videos of our kids getting fit through the assistance of Neal Hausch, owner of Golf Fitness Plus in Green, Ohio. Neal is a top trainer in the world of Golf and has many PGA Tour Professionals utilize his knowledge and his facility when they come in town for the Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club in August. Neal’s most notable client is Jason Day!

As March approaches, our team of 8 Coaches from all three Program Locations will get together to write and sync our lessons plans for the upcoming sessions. Our 2018 Spring Break Camp will be Tuesday, April 3rd – Thursday, April 5th and our 2018 Spring Golf Session at Mud Run Golf Course & Driving Range will start the week of April 21st with registrations opening up on Monday, February 19th on our website at www.thefirstteeakron.org.

We look forward to a Fun and Energetic 2018 Golf Season with The First Tee of Greater Akron!



l-r: Raymone Scott, Roland Pennington, Jimmy Beers at The First Tee National Convention, Orlando, FL

Upcoming Events at The First Tee of Greater Akron



- February 19: Registration opens for Spring Break Camp and Spring Session
- April 3 – 5: Spring Break Camp
- April 10: Annual Executive Dinner at the Fairlawn/Akron Hilton
- April 24: Spring Session begins

Coaches Corner

With Level 2 Coach Raymone Scott

“Changing kids’ lives one swing at a time” is the rhetoric instilled into employees, coaches, volunteers and golfers at the First Tee by PGA professional and coach Jim Beers. When asked what we are doing at our facility this is his usual response in summation. I have been fortunate enough to have joined this national program, and since 2015, I have been able to witness “Coach Jim” as he is lovingly called by our participants deliver seamless lessons that transform his rhetoric into reality. It is truly a blessing to be a part of something so large and be able to say its success is directly related to a process which works. Mentoring works and The First Tee works. Our participants nationwide will be the future leaders of our country.

In fact, it’s the process vs. outcome philosophy within The First Tee that allows for success in our leaders. In order to continue producing these leaders on the largest scale imaginable we must instill a process and focus on that process and have faith that the process will allow our participants to reach a desired outcome. I spent three days In Orlando, FL at the First Tee Level II Coach training becoming certified



Coach Raymone Scott with World Golf Hall of Fame golfer Annika Sorenstam

on how to achieve these desired outcomes in our participants. This experience specifically showed me how to employ positive methods that will develop participant's ability to form a process to achieve a desired outcome. Although there are many ways The First Tee advocates success two stand out in particular. One involving a consistent process and a second centered solely toward active listening to the participants' reasoning.

I would like to encourage national evaluators, board members, coaches, volunteers and of course our current and prospective participants to come and see our program promoting leadership through golf. I would like to recognize the fact that we have choices in life and commend our current participants for choosing and accepting The First Tee. The opportunities this organization will afford participants is exponentially invaluable. Furthermore, its simply rejuvenating to any veteran golfer to witness the instillation of golf fundamentals into children the way Coach Jim does, one swing at a time.



Pro Shop Talk

With Mud Run's PGA Pro Dirk Hartman

Brrrrr... as we struggle through another cold North East Ohio winter, we have some news to catch everyone up on. The First Tee of Greater Akron will continue to manage and operate Akron's "hidden gem" Mud Run Golf Course and Driving Range.

Starting in April we will have the GHIN handicap system available for all that play at Mud Run.

We are anticipating opening the range April 1st, we would like to open it sooner but that all depends on the weather. Check our [Facebook page](#), we'll be listing there when we're open. We also have leagues forming now. Call the Pro Shop for more details.

Some "Snack Shack" news...we will have some new menu items and we will be bringing back some of our favorites. The famous "cheeseburger dog" will make its triumphant return along with some new items, breakfast sandwiches will be available along with the popular uncrustable peanut butter & jelly snack. We will have our \$1.00 dog specials on Tuesday and Thursdays, and we will offer other daily specials.

We are expanding our Pro Shop to include Bridgestone golf balls, and Mud Run logo shirts and caps. It's a brand-new look for Mud Run this year and we can't wait to see you.

*"Wonderful group for young kids and teens.
Great experience for all!" ~ Facebook review from
Beth H.*

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

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