



**GOOD GOLFERS
BETTER PEOPLE**

First Tee of Pittsburgh (FTP) Parent Mini-Handbook

Our Mission Statement - *To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.*

About First Tee – First Tee was created to introduce young people of all backgrounds to the game of golf and its inherent values. Through the First Tee Life Skills Experience (a curriculum for teaching character education through golf) young people around the world discover how skills essential to success on a golf course can help them flourish in life. First Tee was founded in 1997 by the LPGA, the Masters Tournament, the PGA of America, the PGA TOUR, the USGA, and the Shell Oil Company. The Pittsburgh chapter started in 2000 at The Bob O'Connor Golf Course and is now in multiple program locations.

Our Golf Clinics seamlessly integrate golf skills, life skills, and healthy choices into each lesson. Participants will learn interpersonal skills, self-management, goal setting, and resilience skills as they work on putting, chipping, pitching, full swing, and on course play while progressing through the levels of our program.

Equipment & Supplies – We provide clubs and all needed equipment for all students. We do not supply water or snacks. We feel it is important that students stay hydrated during class, so you may want to make sure your child has a bottle of water.

Class Schedule – Every clinic (or practice) has a specific start & stop time. It is beneficial for students to be at their location *10-15 minutes prior to class* for check-in. Parents are encouraged to stay and monitor their child until class begins. Once the clinic starts, parents are welcome to stay or leave the site until the end of the session. However, if you leave, *please leave a phone number that you can be reached in case of an emergency and be prompt in returning to pick up your junior golfer.* While we would never leave a child alone, in many cases our coaches and staff have to get home to their own families.

Dress Code – At FTP we teach Respect for yourself, Respect for others, and Respect for your surroundings. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for golf. Collared shirts are preferred. *Tank tops, halters, jeans, extremely baggie pants, and very short shorts are not appropriate golf attire.* Also, please be sure to dress for the weather. Layering is a good idea as it can cool down quickly in the early evening. Sun screen is always a good idea and a hat is a plus. Children should wear athletic shoes with some tread on the bottom. Wet grass can be slippery. Please, no open toe or heeled shoes as they are a safety issue.

Attendance Policy - All participants are required to attend a minimum of **4 of the 6** class sessions to be eligible to certify (week 7) and move to the next level. Participants may make up missed sessions on other days in other classes *if space in that class is available.*

Inclement Weather Policy – If weather permits, we will conduct class on the golf course. If the golf course is closed because of weather, we will conduct class in our indoor facility (where available). In the event we need to cancel, **YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM THE COACH OF THE CLASS.** Due to scheduling issues, we will not make-up a single missed class. However, if more than 1 class is cancelled, we will do everything possible to schedule a make-up.

For questions concerning your clinic, please call us at 412-622-0108 – DO NOT CALL THE GOLF COURSES.

First Tee Certification – To enhance consistency within the levels of our program, participants are required to pass certification assessments (both written and playing) at the end of each session to move to the next level. This helps us keep participants in groups that have similar golf skills and knowledge. First Tee

Certification process also ensures every participant that certifies at PLAYer, Par, Birdie, TEEN, or Eagle levels has acquired a designated level of golf and life skills proficiency. More specifically, PLAYers should be able to: (a) Understand and demonstrate life skills; (b) Display a progression of golf skills; and (c) Appreciate the importance of etiquette, First Tee Code of Conduct, and the Rules of Golf.

Behavior Policy – We expect students to come ready to learn. We also expect that students will not interfere with the learning, safety, or well-being of others. Behavior expectations will be covered at the beginning of each session and reviewed as needed. Parents will be notified after class if a participant is having difficulty following through in this area. If you know your child has difficulty in a group setting, please let us know in advance. We may need you to stay to help monitor him/her for the safety of all.

Yardage Books – Participants will be issued Yardage Books to complete as they progress through each session. It is every PLAYers responsibility to care for their Yardage Book and to bring it to each class. One Yardage Book will be issued to each participant free of charge, additional books are available for a small fee.

Parent Education Resources – We encourage parents to become involved in what we teach and help support students with their First Tee lessons during the week. The PLAYer yardage book and this mini-handbook are designed to allow parents to follow along with weekly reviews of each lesson.

Volunteers – If you are interested in volunteering with First Tee of Pittsburgh, please go to our website and click on the VOLUNTEER button. As a non-profit organization, we are always looking for quality people to help make our program flourish. This may include coaches, board membership, special projects, fundraising, golf chaperones, etc. We offer volunteer coach training 4x/year.

Refund Policy – Refunds upon request. 100% before the first class begins and then prorated from there.

Other Support – As a youth development charity, First Tee of Pittsburgh relies on donations to keep the cost to participants affordable. It costs \$389/child per year. No child is ever turned away for inability to pay. If you are interested in helping support this program, or work for a company that is interested please contact us. You may also donate through the United Way donor choice program, our agency number is 1436656.

Locations – The Bob O'Connor Golf Course in Schenley Park, First Tee Golf Course at Pleasant Ridge in Stowe Township, Victory Hills Golf Course in Elizabeth, North and South Park Golf Courses, Diamond Run Golf Club in Sewickley, Cool Springs Sports Complex in Bethel Park, 3 Lakes Golf Course in Penn Hills, All About Golf in Butler, Wallace School Building in Baldwin, and Black Hawk Golf Course in Beaver Falls.

Levels of First Tee's LIFE SKILLS EXPERIENCE

TARGET Level (entry level for ages 5-6) - Six lessons are used to spark curiosity in the game of golf.

PLAYer Level (minimum age 7) - Participants will learn The First Tee's 9 Core Values, 9 Heathy Habits, Basic Golf Fundamentals, and Rules of the Game. There are 3 sub-levels to PLAYer Level, plus "on course" leagues.

Par Level (minimum age 9) - Participants will learn The First Tee's Core Lessons 10-15 with golf skills focusing on Balance, Rhythm, Contact, and "Playing". There are 3 sub-levels to Par Level, plus "on course" leagues.

Birdie Level (minimum age 11) - Core Lessons 16-21 with golf skills focusing on Routine, Flight, and "Playing". There is a minimum of clinic hours, plus play requirements to move to Eagle.

TEEN Level (minimum age 13) - Core Lessons 1-21 with golf skills focusing on Balance, Rhythm, Contact, Routine, Flight, and "Playing". TEEN is basically PLAYer, Par, and Birdie Level combined.

Eagle Level (minimum age 13) - Core Lessons 22-27 with focus on Assessment, Refinement, and Development of Golf Skills. There is a minimum of clinic hours, plus play requirements to move to Ace.

Ace Level (must be Eagle Certified) Individualized projects and Self-Paced. Four projects for certification