

## Participant Opportunities Meeting

February 24, 2021

### CHAPTER OPPORTUNITIES

**PGA JUNIOR LEAGUE | SPRING 2021** – This program has **13U (Ages 7-13)** and **17U (Ages 14-17)** divisions. Registration began in early February, and closes March 15. Participants play 9-hole matches in **two-player teams** using a **scramble format**, and our chapter has teams at the **Bob** in addition to our programming locations at **3 Lakes** (Penn Hills), **All About Golf** (Butler) and **Victory Hills** (Elizabeth). Teams play home and away games throughout the regular season, and both the **13U** and **17U** divisions send an **All Star team** to represent the chapter in **post-season** competition within the **Tri-State PGA Section**.

**PARTICIPANT INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS | SPRING, SUMMER & FALL 2021** – The chapter hosts Participant Invitational tournaments on select Saturdays throughout the year at the Bob. The 2021 events are scheduled for **June 12** (Spring), **August 29** (Summer) and **October 23** (Fall). Each of these events has four divisions - **3-Hole (Short)**, **3-Hole (Long)**, **6-Hole** and **9-Hole** – and each division has a **Boys and Girls** champion. Participants choose their division when registering for the event.

**FIRST TEE AMBASSADORS | YEAR-ROUND** – First Tee Ambassadors represent the Pittsburgh chapter at events throughout the year, including the annual Tee It Forward fundraiser and the Pittsburgh Golf Show. Participants selected to be a First Tee Ambassador must **demonstrate the Nine Core Values**, and be able to interact with adults at **an age appropriate level**.

**JUNIOR ADVISORY BOARD | YEAR-ROUND** – Junior Advisory Board members work with First Tee - Pittsburgh staff to guide the organization's future, and provide long-term strategic guidance in designing, creating and supporting participant activities. Participants must be **at least 13 years old**, and have reached the **Par level or higher**, and be actively enrolled in programming classes for **at least two years**.

**PURPOSEFUL PRACTICE | SUMMER 2021** - Held throughout June, July and August at private clubs in the greater Pittsburgh area, these events give skilled Birdie, Eagle and Ace members the chance to play and practice in conditions that they might not normally encounter. We typically have had practice sessions at **Edgewood, Oakmont, Longue Vue** and **Fox Chapel**. We are looking at adding potential sites (South Hills, St. Clair, etc.) in 2021.

**DEACON PALMER SCHOLARSHIP | SUMMER 2021** – Named after Arnold Palmer's father Deacon, this annual **\$2,000 scholarship**, renewable for up to four years based on academic performance, is given to a maximum of two graduating high school seniors each year. Applicants must be **Birdie level or above**, and have been **active participants for at least TWO years**. Nominees must have demonstrated exceptional merit, citizenship, academic achievement, as well as service and commitment to the mission of First Tee - Pittsburgh. **Applications** are **released** in **early March**, and must be **submitted** by **mid-April**. **Awardees** are **announced** in **June** each year, and **recognized** at the annual Tee It Forward dinner in **September**.

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**STRAUNCH INTERNSHIP | SUMMER 2021** – Commemorating Paul Straunch, pronounced “Strow,” this paid internship is for participants ages 16 and older, who embody the “character, precision, compassion and honesty” demanded by the game of golf. Interns can earn **up to \$1,000** working throughout the summer at the **Bob O’Connor Golf Course**, assisting the staff for approximately **20 hours per week**. Applicants must **submit an essay by May 1**, outlining how they feel they can contribute to the chapter as an intern, in addition to having a valid work permit and transportation to and from the facility.

**BOB FORD LEADERSHIP AWARD | SUMMER 2021** - Created by the former Oakmont Country Club Head Professional, this annual one-time **\$5,000 scholarship** is given to a graduating high school senior who best exemplifies the leadership qualities Bob Ford demonstrated throughout his career. Applicants must be **Birdie level or above**, and have been **active participants for at least THREE years**. Participants **submit an essay by early August**, outlining the impact the First Tee of Pittsburgh has had on their life, which is reviewed by the scholarship committee. Finalists for the award **MUST BE available** to interview with Mr. Ford in person in **late August** at a date and time to be determined by mutual agreement.

### REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

**FIRST TEE CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE | APRIL 15-17, 2021**- Held each year in **Naples, Florida** in conjunction with First Tee - Naples/Collier and the Chubb Classic on the PGA Champions Tour. **Two participants** and **one coach** attend from **twelve chapters** on the East coast. FTP typically sends two **males (even years)** or two **females (odd years)** to make housing arrangements easier to manage. This year Jamie Rush and Izabela Aigner will represent our chapter, and they were accompanied by Coach Joe Aigner.

**NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHALLENGE | TBD** - Our chapter typically sends **four players** to this annual event in July. In 2019, **Greater Philadelphia** chapter hosted, with housing at Villanova University, and participants had the opportunity to play at Walnut Lane Golf Course and Merion Golf Club. In addition to a Life Skills test, the competitors play two 9- or 18-hole rounds depending on skill level, and participate in supervised activities in the host city. Our chapter is tentatively planning to host in 2022 after the completion of the Arnold Palmer Learning Center. Other chapters that participate include **Washington D.C., Trenton, Metropolitan New York, Connecticut, Raritan Valley (NJ)**,

**RIVER RIVALS CUP | TBD** - This annual event features teams from the **Pittsburgh** and **Cleveland** chapters, **and the host and location rotates** each year. Last year our chapter had planned to host the competition at **Black Hawk Golf Course**, our programming location in **Beaver Falls**. Lunch and Life Skills testing typically begins at 11:00 AM, and tee times start at 12:00 PM. There are eight participants on each team, and they play six holes of Scramble format, six holes of Alternate Shot, and six holes of Best Ball during their round, all with Stableford scoring.

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February 24, 2021

**FOXBURG HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP | TBD** – The **Society of Hickory Golfers** hosts one of their annual tournaments at Foxburg Country Club in Clarion County, about 55 miles north of Pittsburgh. Foxburg was founded in 1887, and is the oldest continually used course in the United States. **Dr. Bern Bernacki**, the Co-Chair of the First Tee of Pittsburgh Board of Directors, is an avid hickory player, and annually sponsors **two to four participants** from our chapter to play in this event

**NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** *(Detailed requirements are available on the First Tee website.)*

**WELLS FARGO SUCCEEDING TOGETHER | CANCELED** - Teenage participants can compete through an essay contest for the opportunity to attend the Wells Fargo Championship in **Charlotte, North Carolina**. Four winners are selected, with the grand prize winner receiving the opportunity to play in the pro-am with the PGA TOUR player of their choice.

**JOHN DEERE DRIVE YOUR FUTURE ACADEMY (GIRLS ONLY) | JUNE 5-9, 2021** - This all-girls event held in **San Francisco, California** focuses on leadership development, remaining active in the game of golf, learning the value/impact of volunteerism, and recognizing the importance of teamwork

**FIRST TEE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP | JUNE 20-25, 2021** - The first-ever First Tee National Championship will be held at **Clemson University** in **South Carolina**, bringing together First Tee's elite players for an opportunity to showcase how the program has helped build the strength of character needed to play at the collegiate or next level.

**JOHN DEERE POWER FOR GOOD SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST | JULY 5-9, 2021** - Participants submit a written essay about how they are a 'Power for Good' through service to their communities, schools, and neighborhoods. Three essay applicants will each receive a one-time \$5,000 college scholarship and a VIP experience at the John Deere Classic in **Silvis, Illinois**.

**FIRST TEE GAME CHANGERS ACADEMY HONORING JOE LOUIS BARROW | JULY 20-24, 2021** - Participants selected to attend the academy in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** will have the opportunity to further strengthen and develop their leadership skill in various methods. They will be encouraged to develop their leadership qualities and skill set through engaging workshops, panel discussions/seminars, and volunteer opportunities.

**COCA-COLA AMERICA'S FUTURE | SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2021** - Coca-Cola Company offers five participants the chance to experience downtown **Atlanta, Georgia** visiting the Coca-Cola campus, attending new hire training, and taking part in interviews to determine the winner of a scholarship. This event is held in conjunction with The TOUR Championship. **(This event is not confirmed, and may not be offered this year.)**

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**PURE INSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP IMPACTING THE FIRST TEE | SEPTEMBER 21-26, 2021** - An official PGA TOUR Champions event at **Pebble Beach Golf Links** in **California**, the tournament pairs top participants from First Tee with a PGA TOUR Champions player and amateurs. To be selected, juniors are measured in both golf ability and life skills knowledge. The tournament is televised on Golf Channel.

**FIRST TEE INNOVATORS FORUM | OCTOBER 8-11, 2021** - First Tee Innovators Forum in **San Jose, California** recognizes exemplary achievement by a young person currently involved in First Tee programming. This is an interactive and educational summit in which participants will have the opportunity to develop plans for leading a meaningful service project in their communities focusing on raising awareness on global issues. By bringing together exemplary participants across the chapter network, the Innovators Forum provides a distinctive educational experience.

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**GALS ON AND OFF THE GREEN SCHOLARSHIP | SUMMER 2021** – The GALS (Growing, Achieving, Learning, Succeeding) Scholarship is for females only, and was established in 2013 by Jackie Sorrenti, the founder of Gals on the Green, and a former Board Member with the First Tee of Pittsburgh. The scholarship is for up to \$2,500 annually, and can be renewed. Applications are available online, and must be **submitted** by **August 1**, prior to the student's senior year of high school.

**WEST PENN GOLF ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP | SUMMER 2021** - Founded in 1941, this is open to participants who have worked at a WPGA member club for at least two years. The program typically has 10-12 students receiving aid, and is renewable for up to four years if students maintain a cumulative 2.8 GPA or above. Applications from eligible high school seniors must be **submitted** to the WPGA by **late November**, and **final interviews** are done in **April**.

**WESTERN GOLF ASSOCIATION & EVANS SCHOLARS FOUNDATION | SUMMER 2021** - The Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship is a one-year full tuition and housing scholarship, renewable for four years, but only available to caddies. There are nearly 900 Evans Scholars currently enrolled at 20 universities, and over 10,800 have graduated. Applications are **available** online **beginning August 1** each year, and must be **completed by October 31**, when the review process will begin. All decisions are **finalized by April 1**. Complete details are available on their website at [www.wgaesf.org](http://www.wgaesf.org). *(Former participant Victoria Slawinski caddied at Oakmont Country Club, and became the first participant from the First Tee of Pittsburgh to earn an Evans Scholarship in January 2019. She is currently studying engineering at Penn State University.)*