

Kentucky Golf Foundation Newsletter



About The Kentucky Golf Foundation

First Tee Success Stories



The First Tee is a youth development organization focused on fostering the character strength necessary for children to tackle life's challenges with confidence. Through a blend of golf and life skills education, they provide dynamic learning opportunities that cultivate inner resilience, self-assurance, and lasting skills applicable to all aspects of their lives.

Caleb Seow joined the First Tee program when he was 11 years old in 2018. Caleb is now a junior in high school and plays on his high school golf team at DuPont Manual. He currently works for the First Tee of Louisville at Bobby Nichols Golf Course. His goal is to attend a PGM Program, preferably at ECU, for college after he graduates.

"The First Tee really got me into the game of golf. Without them, I don't know if I would be playing golf right now. They have dramatically helped my golf game and positively impacted how I feel about the game and myself."

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David has now made his Varsity high school golf team and won the 2022 Player of the Year his freshman year at Shelby County High School.

"The First Tee has really grown my knowledge of the game. It has also taught me some etiquette in golf and life in general. They have helped me so much throughout my years."

Kyersten Taylor, at the age of 13, began golfing in the summer of 2020 in the Golf FORE Girls class. One year later, Kyersten made her high school golf team as a freshman in 2021.

"The First Tee has made me more consistent with practicing and enjoying the game of golf. It has taught me that everything takes patience and you are not automatically going to be good at something, but if you put your heart in it and keep learning you will become more successful."

These are just a few success stories of such a wonderful program that is the First Tee. If you have any interest in the First Tee program in Louisville, please visit [here](#).

2024 Junior Grants



The 2024 Junior Grants are now available for junior golfers in Kentucky. The Gay Brewer Jr. Grant opened on February 5th and we will continue to accept applications until April 5th. Similarly, the Justin Thomas Grant opened on February 9th, with applications being accepted until April 8th.

To learn more about the grants, please visit our website [here](#). On the website you will find the applications for each of the grants. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Foundation Coordinator, Erin Rowland at erowland@kygolf.org.

February HOPE Trainings



On February 5th and 6th, Brian Oliver, the National Trainer for PGA HOPE, visited Lexington and Louisville to provide training sessions for Kentucky professionals and associates. These sessions aimed to prepare them for upcoming PGA HOPE sessions throughout the year. Each training session spanned a full day, focusing on imparting knowledge about the PGA HOPE Program and its operations.

Each professional and associate learned what PGA HOPE is about, who they serve, how the program works, why we work so hard to improve the program everyday, military culture and how to teach golf to our local Veterans.

In February, we successfully trained 18 professionals and associates statewide, bringing the total number of trained professionals and associates in Kentucky to 68. With our nine chapters, we hope that all of our trained instructors will contribute to sessions this year. Moreover, we aim to expand the pool of trained instructors in the years ahead, fostering continued growth and support for our program.

Upcoming Event



GROWTH OF THE GAME EVENT

WOODHAVEN COUNTRY CLUB
APRIL 11, 2024

The Kentucky PGA is excited to announce the Growth of the Game event will be returning for its second year on Thursday, April 11 at Woodhaven Country Club in Louisville! This is an amazing opportunity to raise money for the KPGA Grant, as well as a cause you are passionate about. This event is open to Members and Associates!

EVENT DETAILS & FORMAT

Participants will play 54 holes in this fashion:

- One 18-hole round on the championship course
- Two 9-hole rounds on the par-three course
- One 18-hole round on the putting course

After the round on the championship course and prior to the rounds on the par-three course, lunch will be provided to each of the participants.

Participants will be asking for donations from other people and companies on their behalf for this event. They will have the opportunity to donate upfront via our Bloomerang platform [here](#) or they will be able to pledge a certain amount of money for every par, birdie or eagle the player makes.

If you decide to donate upfront, please put in the comments who you are donating on behalf of. In addition, anyone who chooses to donate before the event on someone's behalf will be entered into a raffle! Every \$50 equals one raffle entry. There will be four drawings, each for one of the following items: A TaylorMade driver, a Callaway Ai Smoke fairway wood, a Callaway Jaws wedge, and six dozen Chrome Tour golf balls. Anyone choosing to donate solely through Pledge for Performance will NOT be entered into the raffle.

For any questions about this event, please email Erin Rowland at erowland@kygolf.org.

KYPGA Junior Tour Registration OPEN!



Registration for the Kentucky PGA Junior Tour is OPEN! If you are interested in participating in our junior tour events this year, then please visit [here](#) to register. There are a lot of opportunities for our junior players to participate in a multitude of events throughout the state. Please check out the schedule to see what you could be involved in this year!

2024 HOPE for Heroes Fundraiser



Our annual HOPE for Heroes Fundraiser is back on April 22nd at Polo Fields Golf & Country Club! This event plays a crucial role in raising funds for our local PGA HOPE chapters throughout Kentucky. On average, in Kentucky, it costs approximately \$300 for a Veteran to participate in the PGA HOPE Program. Our goal is to raise funds to enable more Veterans to experience the benefits of the PGA HOPE Program.

The event features teams comprising Veterans, Amateurs, and Professionals for an exciting 18-hole scramble. It serves as an excellent opportunity to kick off our PGA HOPE season, bringing together Veterans from various chapters to connect and support one another. HOPE for Heroes offers a day filled with golf, contests, inspiring speakers, military displays, a raffle, local media coverage, and much more!

In our previous year's fundraiser, we raised nearly \$7,500.00 for our HOPE Chapters, and we aspire to surpass that amount this year to positively impact the lives of more Veterans across the state.

Registration for the event will open on March 11th. For any inquiries about the event, please reach out to Erin Rowland at erowland@kygolf.org.

2024 Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame



KENTUCKY GOLF HALL OF FAME

NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are now being accepted for the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame's 2024 induction class! Nominations must be sent in no later than **June 1, 2024 at midnight.**

Since its inception in 1984, the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame has inducted outstanding Kentuckians who have made exceptional contributions to the game of golf. Members of the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame are made up of both amateur and professional men and women who have made an impact on Kentucky golf through their playing achievements or contributions to the growth, development, and promotion of the game and golfers.

To access the nomination form, [please click here](#).

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please reach out to Connie Saner via email at csaner@kygolf.org or by calling (502) 243-8295 ext. 307. Please send completed nominations to Connie electronically or by mail to the following address:

Golf House Kentucky
Attn: Connie Saner
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, KY 40245

*****This year's induction ceremony will tentatively take place in October at a to-be-determined location.***

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Our mailing address is:

Golf House Kentucky

1116 Elmore Just Drive

Louisville, KY 40245

We would like to thank our generous donors for your contributions to our Kentucky Golf Foundation. Without the support, we would not be where we are today. It is because of you that the game of golf continues to grow.

Please visit our website kygolf.org to answer any questions about our Foundation or reach out to our Foundation Coordinator at erowland@kygolf.org.

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