

# EMBRACING our Identity & Building CONFIDENCE

## 2023 Impact Report



## Our Mission

To enrich the lives of young people in the Louisville Metropolitan area by providing educational programs and affordable facilities that build character, instill positive life skills and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

## Commitment to Being a Game Changer

### ***Pursuing Goals***

I am excited to grow and learn.

I am not afraid to fail.

I am learning from both my achievements and setbacks.

### ***Growing through Challenge***

I am discovering my inner strength.

I am developing resilience.

I can dig deep when things get tough.

### ***Collaborating with Others***

I respect other perspectives, especially when they are different from mine.

I show kindness, consideration, and care for others.

I know that my attitude and how I treat others have an impact.

### ***Building a Positive Self-Identity***

I am finding my self-confidence.

I am discovering what I'm capable of.

I feel safe to be myself.

### ***Using Good Judgment***

I respect rules in golf and in life.

I am honest with myself and others.

I have the courage to do what's right,  
even when it's hard.

I can change the game and change the world  
by simply being the best version of myself.

**I am a Game Changer.**



firstteelouisville



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The First Tee Louisville

## Letter from the President

Dear Supporters of First Tee - Louisville,

It has truly been a special privilege for me to be the President of First Tee - Louisville for the past few years. We have grown so much as a chapter and community and it is inspiring to watch our organization grow into what it is today. Not only are our youth learning golf skills but they learn life skills as they develop through our program. They get to grow up with our coaches and staff, learning how to deal with adversity and embrace who they are. It's not just about how many kids we serve but the impact we make on their lives. I could not be more proud of where this organization stands.

Our participants, coaches, families, staff, and volunteers are the heart of First Tee - Louisville. Without their care and love for what this organization does, none of this would be possible. We served over 657 unique youth this year alone, one third of those being female participants and one third of those being ethnically diverse participants. Through the relationship driven coaching approaches our team uses, the participants are empowered to carry strength, resilience, and self-confidence to everything they do.

Through our unique set of program offerings, our youth will never run out of things to do here with us. The Development Tour is something that stands out to me as a powerful new tool our coaches have created in the last few years. Through this program, we can successfully get kids and teens out onto the golf course, playing. The Golf FORE Girls classes are a great asset to give girls their own "girl-friendly" space where they do not feel that they have to fit into the world that is commonly designed around boys.

Because of the support of our friends, we are able to continue our mission of building game changers in the Louisville community!

*Barry Pennybaker, President*



**louisville**

**First Tee – Louisville**  
**Shawnee Golf Course**  
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Louisville, KY 40212

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## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of First Tee – Louisville,

I hope this letter finds you well and thriving. It is with immense pride and gratitude that I reflect on the incredible journey we have undertaken together at First Tee - Louisville over the past 17 years. As the Executive Director, I consider it an extraordinary privilege to be at the helm of an organization that has touched the lives of countless youth and families across Louisville Metro and beyond. From its conception, First Tee - Louisville has been more than an organization to me; it has been a calling, an opportunity to work with and impact the lives of young individuals and families in profound ways. I am deeply honored to have been given the chance to lead a remarkable team of staff, coaches, volunteers, and board members, all united by our shared mission of building gamechangers.

Our mission at First Tee - Louisville is brought to life through our 5 Key Commitments – pursuing goals, growing through challenge, collaboration with others, building positive self-identity, and using good judgment. These commitments form the backbone of our efforts to instill valuable life skills in the youth we serve. Using the game of golf as a vehicle and a carefully crafted life skills curriculum, we provide an active learning experience that goes beyond the fairways and greens.

Your generous support has played a pivotal role in making this vision a reality. Through your contributions, we have been able to create an environment where young minds not only learn the intricacies of golf but also develop inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience. The impact of your support extends far beyond the golf course, empowering our youth to carry these essential life skills into every facet of their lives.

Personally, I have witnessed the transformative power of our programs, and it fills me with joy to see the positive changes taking place. Participants are building a positive self-identity, discovering their capabilities, and, most importantly, feeling safe to be themselves. Your commitment to our cause makes these moments possible and contributes to a brighter future for the youth we serve.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your continued support. Your belief in our mission fuels our passion to make a lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most. Together, we are building a legacy of positive change, one that extends far beyond the bounds of the golf course.

Thank you for standing with us in this important journey.

*D'Shawn Johnson, Executive Director*



## From the Director of Golf

Dear Friends and Supporters of First Tee – Louisville,

“Embracing our Identity and Building Confidence” is a great way to describe not only our local chapter but First Tee as a whole. Over the past few years there have been a plethora of changes from new branding, a new logo, an updated and refreshed curriculum, as well as our own addition of operating two daily fee facilities. Personally, I love the new branding and logo as it helps us connect to the youth more with fun colors and patterns showing that we are a youth based organization.

Our new curriculum which really was implemented this year is a home run. We are now able to teach the core values and healthy habits under the umbrella of our 5 Key Commitments that are Pursuing Goals, Growing Through Challenge, Building a Positive Self-Identity, and Using Good Judgment. Having these allows our coaches to apply the core values in more real time situations not being tied to a specific word but a key outcome. First Tee is and has always been a youth development organization, but the new curriculum embraces golf as a partner with the key commitments. Our goal is not to build PGA Tour players but to build the next generation of game changers on and off the course. Our new curriculum does allow us to give quality instruction to those youth that just simply enjoy the game but also to those who have aspirations of playing a higher level of competitive golf.

I love the more balanced approach as we are able to appeal to a wider array of youth not just focusing on introduction to the game but also retention. The longer youth spend in our program with our coaches the more impact the key commitments will have on them in all walks of life. I am incredibly proud of the growth of our program this year. We set high marks in programming, Shawnee Golf Course, and Bobby Nichols Golf Course this year with more details on that later in this document.

I cannot thank our programming team Olivia, Colton, and Will enough for their long hours and dedication to our local youth building game changers. I have the deepest appreciation for our golf team as well that have grown our golf courses to help support what we do with our youth through sustainable income and greater access to playing and practicing. Juan, Brian, and Matt have been incredible additions for us. As our chapter embraces our identity and builds confidence in what we do I am incredibly excited to see the continued growth and additions in youth serving opportunities that are yet to come in 2024 and beyond.

*Blake Hardesty, PGA Director of Golf*



## Life Skills Experience

The First Tee Life Skills Experience teaches participants ages 6 through 18 our Five Key Commitments to being a Game Changer through the game of golf. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with character-building, we create learning experiences that help kids uncover their inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that they can carry to everything they do. Our trained coaches not only provide golf development, but they create a safe, supportive, and empowering environment to help each child prepare for life ahead.

**Golf FORE Girls** – This class is led by a group of all-female coaches who teach golf and life skills to girls 6-18 years old in a “girl-friendly” environment. As an official LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf Site, girl participants in this program learn how to golf in a comfortable group of other young women. Studies have shown that girls are more engaged, empowered, and energetic when they learn in a “girl-friendly” environment. Our mission is to grow the game of golf among women and this class has helped First Tee - Louisville retain girl participants in our Life Skills Experience program. We want girls to feel welcome on the golf course!

**Player Development Workshops** – This is a winter series that delves deeper into specific areas of the game with our participants ages 10 and up. We have in-depth conversations regarding tournament golf, rules, equipment, careers, fitness, learning the course, and technology. It is an excellent opportunity for our youth to be exposed to the “behind the scenes” of playing golf!

**Winter Indoor Practice Sessions** – This is another one of our Winter Programs where we set-up nets at the Shawnee Golf Course clubhouse and use our FlightScope technology to give our participants half-hour individual instruction with our coaches. In our early sessions of 2022, it had the highest attendance of any session across the board at 90.43%. Our youth have shown to enjoy golf, even in the colder months. Spots fill up each night within twenty-four hours of when we release our schedule.

**First Tee – Louisville Cup** – This is our end of the year Ryder Cup style event amongst programming locations. Participants ages 10 and up are chosen by demonstrating our Five Key Commitments throughout the year. A coach from each location captains that team in a nine-hole scramble.

**PGA Junior League** – PGA Junior Leagues brings fun, family, and friends together in a team style golf program! Youths play scrambles with their teammates against other courses, match-play style, in Louisville and learn how to play the game of golf in a comfortable yet competitive environment.

**Youth On Course** – Providing youth with access to affordable golf is the core of Youth On Course. Members play golf at hundreds of participating courses for \$5 or less. Thanks to the support of Golf House Kentucky, all participants are registered with Youth On Course and able to play any courses we have programming locations at a discounted rate!



## Staying on Par

The First Tee – Louisville School Program teaches thousands of youth across Louisville in Jefferson and Hardin Counties. Gym teachers are trained to deliver the First Tee curriculum to their youth in school. Through safe, fun, and engaging activities, elementary students learn the fundamentals of golf, as well as the basics of our program. This is built as a first point of contact for the youth and our program hopefully sparking their interest to join our Life Skills Experience classes.



### First Tee – Louisville Schools

Johnsontown Elementary  
Eisenhower Elementary  
Kennedy Montessori Elementary  
Goldsmith Elementary  
Carter Elementary  
Foster Traditional Academy  
Semple Elementary  
Klondike Elementary  
Portland Elementary  
Zachary Taylor Elementary  
Maupin Elementary  
Cecilia Valley Elementary  
Woodland Elementary

Radcliff Elementary  
Vine Grove Elementary  
Rineyville Elementary  
North Park Elementary  
Chenoweth Elementary  
Greathouse/Shryock Elementary  
Lakewood Elementary  
Creskide Elementary  
Heartland Elementary  
Lincoln Trail Elementary  
Meadow View Elementary



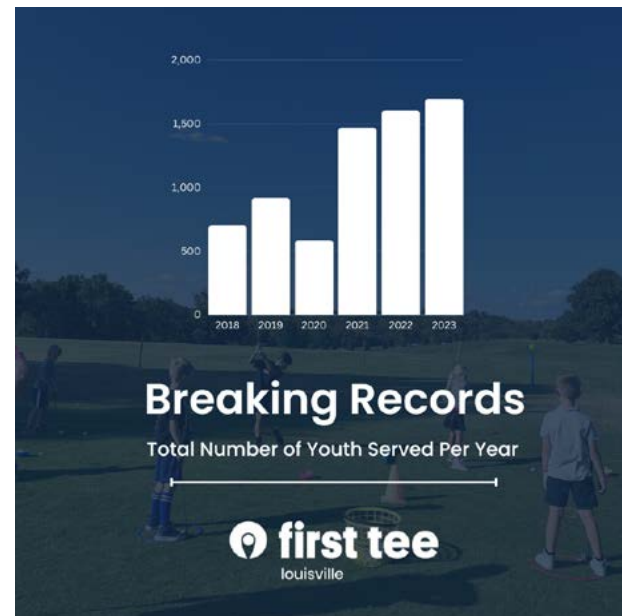
## First Tee — Louisville By the numbers...

**659** Unique participants in programming (Chapter Record)

**1,694** Youth served in various programs in 2023 (Chapter Record)

**198** Unique minority participants

**33%** female participants



We offered 3 sessions of Life Skills Experience (LSE) classes at all of our sites. We also have continued our winter LSE offering in the form of our indoor winter practices at Shawnee. First Tee - Louisville hosted 7 Development Tour events as well as Women in Golf Day and our Emma Talley Clinic in 2023.



## Alumni of First Tee — Louisville Making An Impact...

### Matt Pardue

*I participated at First Tee - Louisville because my grandfather, Ed Perry, actually started the program, but the organization became more than that to me. I was a George Johnson Scholarship recipient in 2011 and attended Appalachian State University. George Johnson was actually one of my coaches here at First Tee - Louisville. I played a lot of competitive golf and he taught me how to stay level headed through tournaments and maintain good composure. The core values you learn through the game of golf teach you how to take on life and handle adversity. I gained leadership skills and developed great relationships with my coaches. I love First Tee and love to support the organization by being a part of the George Johnson Scholarship Scramble committee.*



### Jennifer McCallister

*I was 11 years old and already deeply invested in golf when First Tee was brought to Louisville. Through First Tee, I gained many lifelong friends and a community which is always warm, welcoming, and there for you when you need them. I have been blessed with the opportunity to not only participate in the First Tee program, but during the summer between my junior and senior year of college, in 2014, I was a summer intern and learned about the amazing work that is put into running the programs offered to the youth in our community. Gaining first hand knowledge of how much time and effort are put into the fun skill building activities made me appreciate the volunteers and program leaders even more. Being able to see how our programs are run and learn engaging and fun ways to help build golf skills helped me when I coached Providence High School's Girls Golf team for the '21-'22 and '22-'23 seasons. I was able to implement games and fun activities into practice that I learned from First Tee and make sure the girls on my team represented the Five Key Commitments, both on and off the golf course, that I had been taught. I currently work for Indiana University in their Accounts Payable department as a Research & Audit Representative where I can use the confidence and judgment skills golf and First Tee provided me to help solve problems and act when needed. I can not thank First Tee - Louisville enough for the opportunities and community they have continued to provide to our youth, and I look forward to bringing my future children to my place away from home once they are old enough.*





# Ambassador Coach Spotlight

## KEVIN BLAIR

I was fortunate enough to grow up playing golf from a young age, thus, I know firsthand the happiness and the lessons that it can impart. So, when I was looking for a way to get involved in helping introduce golf to more kids, it led me to First Tee - Louisville. I became an ambassador coach around a year and half ago and in that short span, I have come to greatly appreciate the time I get to spend teaching the kids. From the coaching side, I enjoy watching the progress the kids make throughout each session. To me, seeing them improve, whether it be on the putting green or on the range, is a great benefit of being an ambassador coach. Though, perhaps the greatest benefit for me, is witnessing the sheer delight on their faces when they hit a good shot, accomplish a goal or win one of the games. These are the moments that keep me wanting to be a part of First Tee - Louisville, and I'm very grateful to be involved with such a great organization.



# Ambassador Coach Spotlight

## MARGARET GAMBERT

Volunteering for First Tee – Louisville has been such a rewarding experience so far. About a year ago I attended a luncheon where D'Shawn Johnson spoke to us about First Tee. From the way he spoke about the organization, I knew that it was something I wanted to be involved in. I started playing golf at the age of 11 in rural western Kentucky where there weren't many girls my age playing golf. So it is very special to me to be able to volunteer specifically for the Golf FORE Girls program, because of how much golf had an impact on who I am today. It is so much fun to see these girls each week and watch their swings progress. They always keep me laughing and it is wonderful to see them get excited about their progress! It's so encouraging to see so many young girls interested in golf and to be a small part of their journey in the sport means so much.



# George "G.G." Johnson Memorial Scholarship Celebrating Juneteenth



## first tee Scholarship Recipients

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2002 – Brian Kim, Yale University<br>Andrew Lardner, Jefferson Community College<br>Darren Armstrong, Morehouse College  | 2013 – Robin McGowan II, University of Louisville<br>Charles III Burns, University of Kentucky<br>Johnathan Crenshaw, Eastern Kentucky University<br>Gregory Elvin Myers, Jefferson Community & Technical College |
| 2003 – Corey Carson, University of Louisville<br>Jordan Barnes, St. Louis University   | 2014 – Mason Walthall, Northern Kentucky University<br>Elvin Meyers, Eastern Kentucky University  |
| 2004 – Devin Lamb, Purdue University<br>Teddy Collins, Stanford University   | 2015 – Courtney Carrico, Bellarmine University  |
| 2005 – Matt Savage, Florida State University<br>Jordan Barnes, St. Louis University **   | 2016 – Blake Heckman, Western Kentucky University<br>Jalen Smith, University of Louisville<br>Taylan Goodrich, University of Louisville   |
| 2006 – Ra'Shann Martin, University of Kentucky<br>Marcus Pipes, Kentucky State University<br>Jonathan Rowan, Northern Kentucky University                                | 2017– Breana Graham, Sullivan University<br>Faythe Turner, Spaulding University<br>Maggie Barr, University of Kentucky**<br>Parker Walthall, University of Kentucky   |
| 2007 – Jessica Storch, Bellarmine University<br>Blake Whelan, University of Louisville   | 2018 – Lakayla Berry, University of Louisville<br>Torinae Norman, Manhattan School of Music   |
| 2008 – Jasmine Hamilton, Bellarmine University<br>Natalie Heitz, University of Kentucky<br>Walter Cosby, Georgetown College<br>Andrew Pleasant, Chicago State University | 2019 – Alexandria Baldon, Bellarmine University   |
| 2009 – Bradley Black, Bellarmine University<br>Amber Pangburn, Indiana University Southeast  | 2020 – Veronica Pottinger-Collard, Western Kentucky Univ.   |
| 2010 – Kameron Mucker, Kentucky State University<br>Walter Cosby, Georgetown College **  | 2022 – Kayla Ansert, University of Louisville<br>Leyton Greeley, Asbury University  |
| 2011 – Mathew Pardue, Appalachian State University<br>Jennifer McCallister, Hanover College<br>Gina Nuzzo, Murray State University                                       | 2023 – Samia Ward, University of Kentucky<br>Ross Echols, Emory University<br>Gavin Ravens, Jackson State University  |
| 2012 – Kimberlyn Beck, Eastern Kentucky University/ JC&TC<br>Jalyn Shontee, University of Louisville<br>Gina Nuzzo, Murray State University **                           |   |

\*\*denotes recipient of Second Scholarship



## First Tee — Louisville

# Meet our participants!

### Skye & Skyler Easley

Skyler and Skye are 8 year old twins, now in the 2nd grade. We found out about the First Tee program through the JCPS school they were attending in the fall of 2021 after they arrived here from Wisconsin. We asked them if they wanted to try it and they both said yes. They turned 7 in September and began First Tee the next spring season. Skyler loves it and is very excited to go to class every Monday evening. He loves the coaches and friends he has made. This past Spring Session I switched Skye to the Golf FORE Girls class at Shawnee on Thursdays so they could each have their own class and space to learn in, away from each other and make different friends. What a good choice it was! She loves the women instructors, especially Ms. Olivia, because Skye says she makes them all feel special! She has all girls in her class and she loves it. All she talks about are her newfound friends and "Girl power!" I want to thank First Tee - Louisville and all the instructors for what they are doing in the lives of our youth, making golf possible. Who would have never thought that we would see the kids playing golf. We know nothing about golf, but we intend to learn more so that we can also help them learn.



### Meredith & Ella Jackson

First Tee has been a fantastic experience for our family. When our twin girls started First Tee, they were just five years old. Now they have been in the program for seven years! First Tee taught Meredith how to become a good golfer and to have confidence in being yourself. Ella has also found confidence and many friends through her experience at First Tee. Both girls love getting to play in the scrambles and love getting to work with their coaches each week. This program has been fantastic for our whole family. We quickly realized that this sport could be a great family experience. When we all go out and play together, it gives us some quality family time that in today's world is something that is very special. We cherish our newfound time with our family. The girls also love getting to be a part of the First Tee family! Thank you First Tee!



## First Tee — Louisville

# Making A Difference in our Community

### Women in Golf Day

July 9, 2023 marked the third annual event of Women in Golf Day at Shawnee Golf Course. This year we had over 36 youth participants attend with their families. The panel consisted of Erin Rowland, Foundation Coordinator at Golf House Kentucky, Tiana Jones, PGA and LPGA, Head Men's and Women's Golf Coach at The University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Erika S. Dixon, Head Golf Professional at Elk Run Golf Club, and Adrienne Farrow, Store Manager and Certified Club Fitter at Golf Galaxy in St. Matthews. This event began three years ago to educate our youth participants, specifically our girl participants, on the different opportunities the game of golf can provide by hosting a variety of women who work in the golf industry who have unique roles and backgrounds. We want to expose young girls to the great value the game of golf can provide outside of just playing. They learn from the panel of women the important life lessons they learned through golf and why they love to work in the golf industry. Women in the golf industry are a rare find so we want our participants to meet a variety of positive female role models.



Every year we make sure the event is free to all youth in our community so anyone can gain a deeper understanding of the women who work in golf. After the panel there was Graeter's ice cream and food trucks free to everyone who attended. Carnival-like games were set up for our participants to enjoy as well. This year the event was sponsored generously by the Addie and Baylor Kirchgessner Foundation as their mission goes hand in hand with ours, wanting to expose youth in the community to as many positive opportunities that they can. First Tee - Louisville events build the strength of character that empowers youth through a lifetime of challenges where they can carry confidence to everything they do.

### Emma Talley Clinic

Along with this year's Tales of the Tin Cup, we were able to have LPGA Tour Player Emma Talley join our participants at Seneca Golf Course for a one-of-a-kind clinic in May. An experience like this is unique as many of our youth got to chat with and received signed golf balls from Emma after she demonstrated some top-notch golf shots on the range. We had over 20 youth girls and boys attend with their families from all across the Louisville area. Emma Talley is a Kentucky native



from Caldwell County who turned professional in 2016. Having positive role models and mentors for our youth to meet is an extremely important aspect in developing character. Emma did not only speak on her golf experiences but the important life skills she has learned along the way.



## First Tee — Louisville 2023 Development Tour



The First – Louisville Development Tour was an added offering in 2021. Thanks to the Addie & Baylor Kirchgessner Foundation we were able to continue the growth of the tour in 2023. The Development Tour includes individual and team events set at a manageable yardage to ensure a positive and fun experience. The tour encourages parent caddies with the goal of giving our youth more on-course opportunities to take what they have learned from our Life Skills Experience classes and use them in tournament and team settings.

We wrapped up our third full season of the Development Tour Presented by the Addie and Baylor Kirchgessner Foundation. This was a record setting year as we had 7 events (2 canceled due to weather) including our First Tee - Louisville Club Championship and Tour Championship. We averaged 34 youth playing per event, up from 16 last year. Our attendance for the events was 87% which again was a high mark for the Tour. We had 264 youth signed up and 228 attend events over the course of the year.

We also ventured across the river to hold an event at the wonderful Elk Run Golf Course run by Matt Kirchgessner to further our relationship with The Addie and Baylor Kirchgessner Foundation.



## First Tee — Louisville Out in the Community



Justin Thomas  
Jr. Championship



2023 First Tee Cup Champions

2023 Pro Junior



Addie & Taylor  
Sign Reveal



## First Tee — Louisville Presenting...Our Shawnee



Welcome to Shawnee Golf Course!

2023 was a good year! Rounds and revenue are both up, but that's not what we're the most proud of. Our proudest accomplishment is the community engagement that The First Tee-Louisville and Shawnee Golf Course have produced this year. We helped raise over \$100,000.00 for various non-profit organizations in the Louisville area as well as positively impacting youth from church groups and throughout the community. We hosted multiple events throughout the year including Women in Golf Day, African American Golf Expo Diversity Clinic, and Junior PGA Tour tournaments to grow and expand the game of golf within the community. We are looking forward to 2024!

Thank you,  
*Juan Mitchell, Head Golf Professional*



### Shawnee Golf Course Staff

Juan Mitchell,  
*Head Professional*  
Matt Riggs Jr.,  
*Assistant Professional*  
Julia Vogt  
Jerry Ellis  
Hunter Mitchell  
Stephanie Ford  
Joe Wathen  
Jason White  
Lauren Schmidt  
Bryon Woods  
Chuck Riggs  
Jaiden Ford  
Matt Ford  
Christian Featherstone  
Rob Willis

Shawneegc  
 @Shawneegc1926  
 @ShawneeGC  
(502) 776-9389

## First Tee — Louisville Presenting...Bobby Nichols Golf Course



Welcome to Bobby Nichols Golf Course!

The 2023 golf season was the second year that Bobby Nichols Golf Course was being run by the First Tee of Louisville. We were able to hit the ground running by creating one of the best environments for practice and play in the southend. Throughout the summer, we hosted two separate leagues that played on Monday and Wednesday nights, over 20 tournaments, and two nights of First Tee classes. We are proud to have a strong youth golf presence including classes but also utilizing the Youth On Course golf membership program. Plans for the 2024 golf season include the addition of a new deck on the club house as well as the continued increase of play that this historic 9-hole course deserves. We look forward to hosting more tournaments, leagues and small groups to create a community that can be utilized by everyone who lives in and visits the southend of Louisville.

Thank you,  
*Brian Gscheidle, Head Golf Professional*



### Bobby Nichols Course Staff

Brian Gscheidle,  
*Head Professional*  
Mike Schramm  
Jim Aldred  
Chrissy Anglin  
Keith Brown  
Steve Becker  
Thomas Lardner  
Tony Harris  
Cooper Render  
Will Rowe  
Adam Sneden  
Caleb Seow  
Tyler Puffer  
Josh Quarles  
Aidan Clark

Bobby Nichols Golf Course  
 @bobbynichols1965  
(502) 937-9051





# First Tee — Louisville

## Community Partners

### Corporate Partners

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Long Run Golf Course  
Louisville Golf Classic  
LPGA Amateurs, Louisville Region  
Meade County Activity Center  
Nevel Meade Golf Course  
Oldham County Country Club  
Oxmoor Country Club  
Owl Creek Country Club  
Persimmon Ridge Golf Club  
PGA of America  
Ping Golf  
Polo Fields Golf & Country Club  
Quail Chase Golf Course  
Seneca Golf Course  
Shawnee Golf Course  
Sun Valley Golf Course  
T Betz Golf LLC  
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Youth on Course

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Blake Hardesty, PGA  
Director of Golf



Olivia Hardesty  
Program Coordinator



Colton Gilmet  
Player Development  
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Head Golf Professional  
Bobby Nichols Golf Course



Juan Mitchell  
Head Golf Professional  
Shawnee Golf Course



Matt Riggs Jr.  
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Shawnee Golf Course



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## Programming Staff

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Kayla Ansert - Golf FORE Girls Associate Coach

Alaina Schmitt - First Tee Coach



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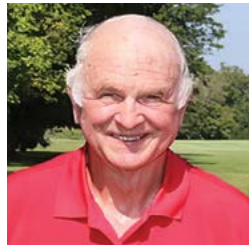
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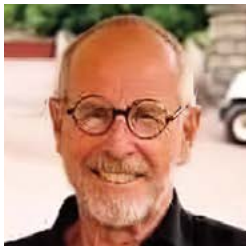
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## First Tee — Louisville Graduate Page

### Samia Ward

Samia joined First Tee - Louisville through an outreach event in 2019. Not long after she was hooked on the game and a regular at our Golf FORE Girls Program culminating her first year as part of the Inaugural First Tee - Louisville Cup Champion Golf FORE Girls Team! In her 4 plus years in the program we were able to see Samia grow as a person on and off the golf course. She balanced fantastic grades with being a 4 year player at Male High School on the girls golf team while still being an active First Tee participant. Her last year plus she spent time mentoring our younger participants including being part of our 2022 KPGA Pro Junior Team. Samia is now a Freshman at the University of Kentucky and we cannot wait to see what her future holds!



### Gavin Ravens

Gavin was part of the program for the majority of the past decade. He spent countless hours on Monday nights as part of the 10-13 class before moving up to our Development Classes his past few years. Much like Samia he balanced time at Central High School playing on the golf team and being an active member of the band. Throughout his time in the program Gavin went from not knowing what the game of golf was to being a dedicated player. His time in the program taught him many things that will help him be successful in his next endeavor which takes him down to Mississippi as a Freshman at Jackson State University!



### Ross Echols

Ross also was in the program for the majority of the past decade. His journey took him from our 6-9 classes and 10-13 classes at Shawnee Golf Course up to our Development Classes as well as our Player Development Workshop Series. Ross was also part of Shawnee and First Tee - Louisville's first ever PGA Junior League team all the way back in the summer of 2016. Ross joined the program as an incredibly shy young man. Through the years in the program, friendships like with Gavin, as well as the relationships he built with our programming team he came into his own in the program. He left the program comfortable in uncomfortable situations such as presentations. He has always had an interest in engineering and is continuing his education at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia this year!





Anne

Joe

Quinn

Joahhæ

# THANK YOU!

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**First Tee – Louisville  
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