



## FTSV FAQ – Course Program

### What is the purpose of First Tee – Silicon Valley?

- First Tee - Silicon Valley develops youth through golf. We enable kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum, we create active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do.

### How much does it cost to join an 8-lesson session?

- The cost for a full 8-week session (12 hours of instruction) is \$230. The full cost is \$300 so \$70 is subsidized by FTSV donors.
- Financial aid is available on a sliding scale and can reduce the fee to \$20-\$180. Apply during registration.

### What is the grade range of participants?

- Participants range from grades 2-12. Previous golf knowledge is not required.

### How are 8-lesson sessions organized?

- Participants are organized by four (4) grade groups so that peers stay together – grades 2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12
- Each grade group has a Part 1 – 6 of 8 weeks on practice areas and a Part 2 – 6 of 8 weeks on the golf course.

### Where will my child begin the program?

- Register by grade and not by skill.
- Every Grade Group (Part 1 & Part 2) is open to all skill levels.
- We have two classes – Grades 7-8 Part 0 and Grades 9-12 Part 0 that are for those new to FTSV and beginners who only want to be with other beginners.

### Will there be an exception for siblings of different grade groups to be in the same class?

- No, we will adhere to the grade group of the participants. Accommodations will not be made for siblings.
- The curriculum is designed for the specific grade groups. Participants staying in their grade group will ensure that kids are getting a curriculum that is developmentally appropriate.



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### **How does my child experience the whole program?**

- Participants will transition from one grade group to the next as they get older and move into the next grade group range. Skill does not factor into what class you can take.
- Participants are encouraged to take at least one Part 1 and Part 2 session at each grade group and take sessions until they graduate high school.
- The program is designed for participants to repeat sessions for retention of information and skill development. Many participants take 2-3 sessions per year, each year.

### **Will my child be grouped together by skill within the grade group?**

- It depends on the group dynamics. Either way our coaches will adapt to the different skill ranges within each grade. Our coaches are good at addressing the needs of those with different skills.
- We will have variations of our golf games as an option for classes with a wide skill range. We may also divide a larger group into smaller groups if necessary.

### **What is covered in an 8-lesson session?**

- There are 3 parts to the curriculum – Life Skills, Golf Cues, Golf Ready
- Life Skills include: Showing Respect, Collaborating with Others, Building Positive Self-Identity, Making Good Choices, Pursuing Goals, Overcoming Challenges
- Golf Cues correspond to parts of the body important to golf skill development – Hands, Arms, Torso, Head, Feet, Legs
- The Golf Ready prepares participants for on-course play
- Each week the different grade groups will learn one tool from each of the three parts – Life Skill, Golf Cue, Golf Ready

### **Where are FTSV classes offered?**

- Rancho del Pueblo Golf Course — 1649 Hermocilla Way, San José, 95116
- Baylands Golf Links — 1875 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto, 94303
- Gavilan Golf Course — 5055 Santa Teresa Blvd, Gilroy, 95020



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### How can I help my child improve?

- Reinforce and reward the life lesson each week. We will have the lesson posted at the golf course and sent in our weekly email. Please check in with the coach to learn more about what was covered in the session.
- Be supportive, actively listen, and ask questions. Encourage and reward effort and treat mistakes as opportunities to learn. Please refer to the Positive Coach Alliance’s “Second Goal Parent” resource on our [Participant Private Page](#) for more information on how to motivate, support, and empower your child in a youth sport setting.
- Encourage students to practice/play golf outside of class. Develop a community within FTSV so your child has someone to play with outside of class.

### Can I watch my child play during session?

- You may watch your participant practice, but you must be 25 yards away.
- We do not want participants to be distracted by their parents during session.

### Can I assist the coach during session?

- No, we kindly ask that parents do not coach during the session.
- We have a coaching framework and philosophy that our coaches are delivering and parent instruction can complicate the lesson.
- If you would like to volunteer and be a trained FTSV coach, we are always looking for help! Please visit the link to get started, <https://www.firstteesiliconvalley.org/ways-to-give/volunteer/>
- However, when volunteering you will not be scheduled for your child’s class.

### Do participants need their own golf clubs?

- No, we provide clubs, balls, tees and any other equipment they might need.
- However, participants may bring their own golf clubs if they prefer.

### Where can we purchase golf clubs?

- You may purchase new golf clubs at any of our golf locations, or online at <https://uskidsgolf.com/#>
- If you are looking into used clubs, please contact [manny@ftsv.org](mailto:manny@ftsv.org) once you have taken at least one session.
- If you are receiving financial aid and need clubs please contact [manny@ftsv.org](mailto:manny@ftsv.org) for a discounted set of clubs (when and if available).



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### When should I buy clubs?

- When participant takes a liking to golf and wants to practice/play on their own.

### Golf is expensive... are there any discounts to practice and play outside of session?

- Every active participant will receive a discount card during their first session of each calendar year.
- The card offers participants discounted 9-hole play fees of \$5 for Gavilan College Golf Course, Rancho Del Pueblo Golf Course, Los Lagos Golf Course, and \$10 for Baylands Golf Course. \*Please call each course in advance for play restrictions.\*
- Discounts for practice driving range balls are also available with the card.
- The card is to be used only by the participant.

### What is the dress code?

- We prefer our participants wear pants/shorts with pockets.
- Polo shirts are recommended, but not required
- Athletic shoes or golf shoes
- No boots, crocs, or cleats from other sports

### What if we are late to session?

- Similar to a golf tee time, everyone is encouraged to please show up 5-10 minutes before your session.
- For session safety and responsibility purposes we will turn anyone away who is more than 1 minute late.

### What if we miss a session? Are there makeups?

- Please notify your coach so he/she/they can work with you to catch up.
- Unfortunately, we do not offer makeup sessions.
- Participants may miss two sessions and still be eligible to achieve the challenge for that grade group. Participants can still participate in the session if more than two sessions are missed.



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### Can my child join another session during week if we can't attend ours for that week?

- No, to keep our coach-to-student ratio low and for logistical reasons, we do not allow students to cross over to another session.

### What if it rains, is excessively hot, or the air quality is bad?

- Email [weather@ftsv.org](mailto:weather@ftsv.org) to receive an update on the class status. We will cancel session if:
  1. The weather is projected to be under 50 degrees AND raining when we make the call before 11am for weekdays and by the end of the previous day for Saturdays.
  2. Extreme weather conditions, which pose a safety risk/threat (i.e., severe hail, flooding, thunderstorms, etc.)
  3. Air quality is greater than 150 AQI.
  4. Temperature + humidity reaches the danger level and above on the Apparent Temperature chart. We will review this any time forecasted temperatures rise above 90 degrees.

### Are there any extra participant opportunities available at FTSV?

- We offer local, regional, and national opportunities for participants.
- Local opportunities involve Girls Golf events, pre-season tournaments, scholarships, and more.
- Regional opportunities include NCGA Youth on Course card which provides participants with a card that affords \$5 green fees at golf courses all over the Bay Area. There are also NCGA summer internships, scholarships, and summer caddie work experiences.
- National opportunities are available for participants who
  - Achieve grade group 9-12 challenges in Part 1 and Part 2.
  - Participate in a minimum of 3 years and take a minimum of 2 sessions per year.
  - National opportunities include – leadership academies, golf tournaments, scholarships, and mentoring programs

### Questions?

- Call 408-508-4880 or email [reg@ftsv.org](mailto:reg@ftsv.org)