



Program Overview & Policies

Welcome to First Tee – Silicon Valley!

First Tee - Silicon Valley develops youth through golf. We enable kids and teens 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

Stay Updated and Be an Ally

- Our "Fore! Families" weekly email is sent each Tuesday providing specific information about our class resources, upcoming events, and opportunities.
- Our 'Private Participant Page' (PPP) contains parent resources videos and supporting documents. Please help us reinforce our Life Skills and help make the experience fun for your participant.
 - Visit our website, firstteesiliconvalley.org
 - Click the PRIVATE button (top of the home page),
 - Click "Participants & Families" (password - Class24).
- Questions?
 - English - Tue-Sat (10am-6pm) reg@ftsv.org or 408.508.4880
 - Spanish – Sat (9:30am- 2:30pm) lina@ftsv.org or 408.508.4886

Why We Exist:

- Building character to help youth succeed in life.

How We Coach:

- Provide a supportive, safe, and positive environment where relationships can form and students feel welcomed, empowered, and included.
- Engage participants by creating an activity-based experience where participants learn and apply our life and golf skill curriculum through participation in our games.
- Deliver process-focused coaching to build a growth mindset for participants.

What We Coach

- 3 parts to the curriculum – Life Skills, Golf Cues, Golf Ready
- 6 Life Skills, 6 Golf Cues, 6 Golf Ready concepts taught across all grade groups
- Each Life Skill and Golf Cue has four related tools (variations), each with three tips, one for each grade group (24 total lessons)
- Each week the different grade groups will learn one tool from each of the three parts – Life Skill, Golf Cue, Golf Ready.

Classes and Grade Groups

- Classes are organized over (4) Grade Groups so peers stay together
- Grade Groups
 - Grades 2-4 – Practice, Course, Play
 - Grades 5-6 – Practice, Course, Play, Rounds
 - Grades 7-8 – Practice, Course, Play, Rounds
 - Grades 9-12 – Practice, Course, College, Career, Golf, Give Back
- Practice = 6 of 8 weeks on practice areas; open to all skill levels
- Course = 6 of 8 weeks on golf course; open to all skill levels
- Play – 8 weeks on golf course; 9-holes supervised
- Rounds – 8 weeks on golf course; 9-holes unsupervised
- College – 8-week seminar; fall only; 10th grade and up
- Career – 8-week seminar; spring only; 10th grade and up
- Golf – 6 of 8-weeks on practice areas, summer only; 10th grade and up
- Give Back – 8-week seminar; winter only; 9th grade and up

Achievement

- There are FTSV Golf & Life Skill Achievement Challenges and “standards” for each Grade Group
- Achievement is NOT tied to progression or next class
- Achievement challenges help participants set goals and take ownership over their skill development
- Here is the schedule for when we do each set of challenges for Practice and Course classes:
 - Golf Skill Challenges – Practice (Week 7)
 - Life Skills Challenges – Practice (Week 8)
 - Golf Ready Challenges – Course (Week 7)
 - Life Skills Challenges – Course (Week 8)
- It is encouraged to take the Practice & Course classes in each Grade Group to experience all FTSV achievement challenges for self-management & improvement purposes.
- Participants are also encouraged to set their own achievement goals if the challenge standards are too low or too high
- It is important to repeat sessions for retention of information and for pursuing personal goals

Policies

- Attendance - Inform staff about absences one week prior.
- Punctuality - arrive 10 min early
- Late policy - 1 minute after class starts, participant will be turned away
- Attendance policy – We encourage participants to not miss more than 2 sessions (classes). Challenges take place weeks 7 and 8. No make-ups
- Check in/out – parents/guardians walk students to and from the check in/out table. Arrive early, especially week 1
- Spectating - Must stay 25 yards away during class. Let the coaches coach. However, it is important to consistently check in with coaches and staff before or after class
- Dress code – pockets, athletic shoes.
- Clubs provided for all classes if needed. We have a leasing program for those on financial aid and a purchasing option for everyone else while supplies last. Contact coach Manny and talk to program staff
- Cancellation policy – class held rain or shine. Classes cancelled if the forecasted temperature is < 50 degrees AND raining, or the AQI is >130, or the temperature is >95 AND the apparent temperature (temperature + humidity) reaches the danger level and above on the Apparent Temperature chart. We will review this any time forecasted temperatures rise above 95 degrees. The temperature and AQI is determined using zip code, class location, the Apple Weather App, and airnow.gov. Cancellation decisions will be made by 6pm the day before based on the forecast.
- Email weather@ftsv.org after 6pm the day before for an update on the class status. Credits will be issued if more than 2 classes are cancelled
- Cancellation Policy – Full refund if you cancel before the published registration deadline. No refunds will be given if the cancellation is made after the registration deadline. Email reg@ftsv.org to notify us of cancellation
- Make-Ups – For logistical reasons there will be no option to make-up classes by taking a class at a different time or day
- Full class payment must be received before participant can join the class
 - In the case of a no-show on the first day of class (without notification), the participant will be removed from class and the next person on the waitlist will be admitted. *Notify by emailing reg@ftsv.org
- Behavioral intervention process – Click [here](#) to review our code of conduct, our 4-step process for managing behavioral issues, and what behavioral issues kick start the 4 steps. Our approach is rooted in providing coach support with participant accountability.

Opportunities for High School Participants

- High School Participants have access to the following opportunities
 1. [Ace Classes](#)– Career, Education, Volunteer, and Golf
 2. [National Opportunities](#)
 3. [Scholarships](#)
 4. [Junior Council](#) - They plan events/opportunities, fundraise, contribute to our marketing/social media

1. Ace Classes:

- A layered approach incorporating self-exploration, active investigation of potential education & career plans, demonstration of leadership & investment in their community, & development of goals & real-world assets to kick-start their future
- Includes (4) 8-week seminar classes & an optional Ace-Certification process
- The classes and certification process provides the opportunity to apply the 6 First Tee Life Skills and develop a skill set that prepares them for post high school life.
- The following (4) 8-week classes are open to participants 14-17, new & returning:
 - Education class (Fall – Sept to Oct) - financial planning for college, college application process, school identification/exploration strategies
 - Give Back class (Winter – Dec to Feb) - going above and beyond, learning transferable skills, networking, professionalism
 - Career class (Spring – Mar to May) - resume-building, interview skills, adaptive and content skill development, professional correspondence, and career explorations
 - Golf class (Summer – Jun to Aug) - golf psychology, optimal practice habits, and goal setting
- To be eligible for Ace-Certified participants must
 - Complete achievement challenges in Grades 9-12 Practice and Course
 - Complete all 4 Ace - Classes & post class course work on the FT App.
 - Participate in FTSV at least 3 years & take a min of 2 sessions per year
- *Any high school participants can take Ace classes, even if they are not eligible to be Ace-Certified. They can still take the classes*
- Click [here](#) for full details

2. National Opportunities:

- First Tee Home Office provides events around the country that our high school participants are invited to apply for
- To apply, participants are encouraged to
 - Complete achievement challenges in Grades 9-12 Practice and Course
 - Participate in FTSV for a min of 3 years & take a min of 2 classes per year
 - Our team sends out a Google Form sheet to high schoolers with details on the national opportunities, and then they are selected to apply based on their engagement in our program and whether they meet the national opportunity requirements
- Click [here](#) to view each opportunity, with highlights of our selected participants

3. Scholarships:

- Participants are selected based on achievement, longevity, and financial need
- Scholarship opportunities include the Joyce Taylor Award, Dennis Kettman Award, FT College Scholarship Program, YOC Scholar, and Silicon Valley Community Fund Scholarships (regional)
- Click [here](#) to view the scholarship details

Opportunities - All

- Discount cards (just for students!)
 - Handed out week 2 for all new participants
 - Offers discounted rates for range balls to practice on your own
- NCGA Youth on Course card (playing discounts)
 - available when registering (year-round)
 - Provides playing discounts at over 100 golf courses
- Pre-season - [Seasonal Tournaments, Girls Golf, Appreciation Events](#)
- Parent/Guardian Clinics
 - In November of each year, we host a parent clinic where parents/guardians can sign up for a group golf lesson from our staff. Contact phoenix@ftsv.org for more details

Volunteering

- As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on volunteer assistance.
- Volunteer coaches – assist as life and golf skill coaches. 1 class per week (same day each week) for 2.5 hours per class
- Administrative volunteers - assist with check-in/check-out at our locations during season
- Please go to <https://www.firstteesiliconvalley.org/about/volunteer/> and click on 'Volunteer Form' to get started. You must be through the onboarding process before: March 1st (Spring), June 1st (Summer), August 10th (Fall) or November 10th (Winter) in order to volunteer for the next session

We look forward to meeting you this season!