

2026



National Participant Opportunities

Parents' Guide



National Opportunities Overview

National participant opportunities are prestigious events hosted by First Tee headquarters. These events provide teens with transformative experiences to showcase and enhance skills learned at their local Chapter, network with peers and mentors, and gain exposure to opportunities that golf provides both on and off the course.

These opportunities serve as a national stage where participants demonstrate the life skills and character values they have developed through First Tee.

2026 Life Skills Events

First Tee Game Changers Academy *Honoring Joe Louis Barrow, Jr.*
July 18-22 in Minneapolis, MN

First Tee Leadership Summit *(PGA TOUR Superstore markets)*
August 3-7 or August 10-14 in Emigrant, MT

First Tee Drive Your Future Academy *presented by John Deere*
October 8-12 in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

First Tee Innovators Forum
November 15-19 in Amelia Island, FL

2026 Golf Skills Events

First Tee National Championship
June 21-25 in Chapel Hill, NC

PURE Insurance Championship Impacting First Tee
September 15-20 in Pebble Beach, CA





Participant Feedback

“ I feel like I really needed this experience. I've never been around so many people who genuinely wanted to connect with each other and put so much thought into every conversation and response. I would 100% recommend this experience and First Tee to anyone. It teaches you so many meaningful lessons that you can take back home and use in your everyday life.

– **Leticia, First Tee – Tampa Bay**

“ The people I was surrounded by will leave me with the most lasting impact and memorable experience. Many of the speakers left me with a newfound passion and inspiration to keep going and provided me with a new perspective when facing adversity. Meeting new participants, coaches and chaperones throughout the trip was an incredible and unforgettable experience as their company is what motivated and kept me going on and off the course.

– **Nithya, First Tee – Greater Dallas**



2026 Schedule

First Tee National Championship

Chapel Hill, NC | June 21-25

First Tee Game Changers Academy

Honoring Joe Louis Barrow, Jr.

Minneapolis, MN | July 18-22

First Tee Leadership Summit in partnership with PGA TOUR Superstore

Emigrant, MT | August 3-7 or 10-14

PURE Insurance Championship

Impacting First Tee

Pebble Beach, CA | September 15-20

First Tee Drive Your Future Academy presented by John Deere

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL | October 8-12

First Tee Innovators Forum

Amelia Island, FL | November 15-19

For more information, visit firsttee.org

Application Process Overview

First Tee Chapters actively identify and recommend participants to apply for national opportunities. Nomination processes can vary by Chapter.

Applications are submitted online through SurveyMonkey Apply by the participant. Applications are then reviewed by a committee using criteria specific to each event.

14-18
Age requirement

2+ years
as an active participant

Up to 4
Participants recommended per Chapter

Selection Process

Following the close of applications, a Selection Committee, comprised of Chapter & Headquarters staff, Alumni, and Sponsors will review and score applications. Scoring rubrics are listed in the event applications. The final field is notified of the selection decision via email from First Tee.

To learn more, contact your First Tee Chapter.

Application Dates

January 7 – March 18

National Championship
PURE Insurance Championship
Game Changers Academy

May 13 – July 15

Drive Your Future Academy and Innovators Forum



Participant Eligibility



Strength of Application



Quality of Resume

Attending Events

National Participant Opportunities

If your teen is selected to attend a national participant opportunity, they will receive an email from First Tee with full details about the event, including an Acceptance Packet with travel and stipend information, packing list, event policies, accommodations, meals, event schedule, and contact information.

Prior to booking travel, contact your First Tee Chapter. After you book flights, participants will be required to log into their Survey Monkey Apply account and submit various event forms.

First Tee Headquarters provides:

- Leadership and empowerment activities
- Participants receive First Tee gift package
- Travel stipend (amount varies by event)
- Professional development
- Meals and accommodations for participants

What are families responsible for?

- Making all travel arrangements
- Airfare costs that exceed the stipend maximum
- Ground transportation to/from hometown airport
- Additional family members' expenses beyond what's covered



Attending Events

Guidelines & Policies

Airfare & Travel

- Airfare must be booked by the family or First Tee Chapter
- First Tee adheres to an unaccompanied minor policy when traveling to events without a parent or guardian
- Direct line of communication with staff during travel days
- First Tee HQ provides all transportation needs on-site throughout the entirety of each event without a parent/guardian including airport shuttles on arrival and departure day.

Accommodations

- First Tee HQ provides lodging for all national opportunities
- First Tee will reimburse lodging expenses for events that are reserved independently (PURE Insurance Championship)
- Participants are paired with a roommate when attending events without a parent/guardian; rooms are assigned to gender-specific floors

Health & Safety

- All First Tee staff and chaperones are Safe Sport trained and compliant
- Staff always carries a First Aid kit to all programming activities
- Participants who are 18 years old are required to complete a SafeSport for Youth Athletes Course as part of their acceptance forms
- Alumni Chaperones will always stay on-site at host accommodations and perform nightly bed checks
- First Tee provides alternatives in consideration of all food allergens

Emergency Protocols

- In the event of a medical emergency, First Tee will immediately contact the parent/guardian and seek urgent care
- All other emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis, and will adhere to the First Tee Code of Conduct

First Tee Events

Meet the Team

First Tee's Events Team is dedicated to providing impactful, inspiring, safe participant opportunities. Our passion is to empower our participants and provide them with resources that build the inner strength, confidence, and resilience they need to take on life's challenges.



Brittany Wynne

Director, Events

Years with First Tee: 7

Fun Fact: I have 2 dogs and 5 chickens



Nicolette Scalf

Senior Manager, Events

Years with First Tee: 5

Fun Fact: I am a twin



Phillip Wemyss

Coordinator, Events

Years with First Tee: 1

Fun Fact: I can name every U.S. state capital

First Tee's Mission

To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

Commonly Asked Questions

Can teens who previously attended an event apply again?

First Tee National Championship is the only national opportunity a participant can attend more than once.

Is financial assistance available for travel costs?

Yes! First Tee provides tier-based stipends for all events based on airfare costs. The maximum stipend amount is listed on the application and Acceptance Packet for each event. Additional needs-based stipends are offered for PURE Insurance Championship. Stipends are paid directly to Chapters approximately 3 to 4 weeks after the event's conclusion. Families are responsible for coordinating reimbursement with their Chapter.

Do participants need to travel with a chaperone?

No, most First Tee national events do not require a parent/guardian to travel with participants. The exceptions are the National Championship and PURE Insurance Championship, which both require parent/guardian chaperones.

My child has never traveled alone. How can I ensure their safety?

Great question! First Tee staff and our Alumni Chaperones ensure a direct line of communication throughout travel days. Unaccompanied minor services may be booked through the airline, but is subject to policy and availability. If you are interested in booking this service, reach out to the event lead to discuss options prior to booking. Families will be responsible for additional cost.

Can parents or guardians travel with their teens to an event?

Yes, parents are welcome to travel to the event location. However, you will not be able to stay with your teen during the event itself. Parents are responsible for arranging their own accommodations and transportation. If you plan to drop your teen off at the event venue or leave them with our chaperones at the airport, please contact event staff in advance.

What if flights are delayed or we encounter travel issues?

Travel delays will happen! Rest assured, our team tracks participants' flights and will work with parents/Chapters through all travel issues, ensuring we have chaperones at the airport when they arrive. If a participant is delayed on their departure day, First Tee staff will stay with your teen until their flight departs, whether that is the same day or next day. We will also cover any additional accommodations cost.

Will First Tee provide an absence excuse letter for school?

Absolutely! Please reach out to the event lead, and they will happily send a signed letter for your school.