



**2023**

## Building Game Changers

Quarterly Newsletter

# What is First Tee?

For over 15 years, First Tee – South Dakota has been creating experiences that build character to empower kids through a lifetime of new challenges and continuous personal growth. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum. First Tee – South Dakota creates impactful learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do. Those character education programs are offered in 5 South Dakota communities (Sioux Falls, Dell Rapids, Madison, Brookings, Aberdeen, and Milbank) at 11 golf courses, in 77 elementary schools and 2 youth centers. Our program impacts more than 34,000 kids annually through all of our program offerings.



## Sponsor Spotlight

**SANFORD**  
HEALTH

We are lucky to call Sanford Health a partner in helping First Tee – South Dakota build game changers. Sanford Health, the largest rural health system in the US provides care in a diverse range of settings and environments with a focus on the wellness of individuals!



**Dave Austad**

## Board Highlight

Dave Austad has been the Board Chair of First Tee – South Dakota for 2 years. Dave has been an incredible leader with a vision to bring the game of golf and its inherent values to all kids in the state of South Dakota. Dave hosts an annual fundraising event called the Austad’s Invitational that benefits our organization, ensuring that no young person is turned away due to an inability to pay.

## Alumni Highlight

Alex Shattuck was part of First Tee – South Dakota from 2011–2014. Alex represented the chapter at the Nature Valley First Tee – Pebble Beach Champions Tour Event, partnering with 3 time PGA Tour Champion winner Stephen Ames. After graduation, Alex went on to play collegiate golf at William and Mary, graduating with a B.S in Psychology. Today, Alex lives in Hawaii, and is a Master Instructor at The Golf Room Everywhere, one of the nations largest online golf instruction platforms. He provides comprehensive instruction to more than 175 players. Alex has amassed a social media following of 60K+ (Instagram and TikTok)



**Alex Shattuck**

@alexshattuckgolf



In the fall of 2022, First Tee - South Dakota partnered with the Brookings Boys and Girls Club and the Salvation Army in Sioux Falls to deliver the Homework and Hitting program to over 49 kids. This program highlights our organizations priorities of Character Development, Youth Development, and Academic Success. We combine these priorities with caring mentors, caring coaches, healthy habits, throw in some golf and all of these things combined equals overall success. Our coaches provide the youth additional help with math and reading, and then provide them the opportunity to learn about golf and its inherent values by playing golf games and utilizing technology (simulator and VR).



## Homework and Hitting



One of our 4th grade participants has had great success with the program. She told one of our coaches she was nervous to start Homework & Hitting because she had never golfed before. Since joining us, she now says she "loves the program and wants to do First Tee golf in the summer!" because she has learned so much. We love growing the game and providing opportunities for kids to learn golf!

# Facility Shout Outs!

## Aberdeen

Moccasin Creek CC and Lee Park GC are where you'll find First Tee - South Dakota programming in Aberdeen.

Both golf courses are open to any youth, no membership required.

Our programming is run by knowledgeable coaches who love to share their passion for golf and the importance of the inherent values. All First Tee - South Dakota members will have access to each of the driving ranges.



## Brookings

First Tee - South Dakota is lucky to have two partners in Brookings. For the last ten years, we have been at Edgebrook GC, and NEW in 2023 we are adding Brookings CC. We offer summer programming at both locations and you do not need to be a member at either course to participate. Both courses have wonderful junior holes that can be utilized as part of your registration plus a discount on range balls.



## Sioux Falls

Sioux Falls programming is mostly conducted at Elmwood Golf Course, located in the northern part of Sioux Falls. We offer summer programming 1 day a week for 8 weeks for kids 5-18. In addition to regular programming days, we also offer access to the Fast Five (5 short holes), pop-up play days and discounts on range balls. In the fall, we utilize Kuehn Park, located on the west side of Sioux Falls for afterschool programs.



## Registration is Open at ALL locations!

[www.firstteesouthdakota.org](http://www.firstteesouthdakota.org)

## A Message from our Executive Director...

I love so much about what First Tee does for the kids in our program. Our purpose is to help kids build-inner strength, self- confidence, and resilience through the game of golf. Our communities in South Dakota have a need for the inherent life skills and values found in our programs.

We will be focused on going to where the kids need us most, in their neighborhoods, introducing new kids to our curriculum. First Tee has always been about helping kids navigate challenges, and to grow stronger as they move through them. I believe the game of golf is the perfect platform for personal growth. We look forward to growing our program at the club, and helping more kids with their goals on and off the course.

*Julie Jansa*

Executive Director



**Connect  
With Us!**

**@firstteesouthdakota**

