

Annual REVIEW



2023

 **first tee**
south dakota



Our Mission

To improve the lives of young people by providing educational programs and learning environments that **build character, instill life-enhancing values, and promote healthy choices** through the game of golf.

Our Purpose

Enable kids to build strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges.

Our Values

First Tee builds experiences that build character. Experiences are our greatest teacher. First Tee believes in developing experiences that are just as fun as they are meaningful. We've spent nearly 25 years building experiences that build character to empower kids through a lifetime of new challenges and personal growth.

Who We Are...



A Message From Julie & Dave



For more than 15 years, First Tee – South Dakota has been positively impacting thousands of South Dakota youth through our on-course, in-school, and afterschool programming. 2023 proved to be no different with us impacting over 36,000 kids through all our delivery channels.

Our organization exists to provide opportunities for kids to learn, develop and apply life enhancing life skills and values that will empower them through new challenges. We aim to build character in our participants so that they can build positive futures for themselves. This work is more important than ever before. The skills we teach our kids, through the game of golf, will help prepare them for their future success in the classroom, their careers, and within their chosen community.

Our record-breaking year has enabled First Tee – South Dakota to continue our vital work in our community, and across our state. Our work, our success, could not be done without the generous support of our donors, volunteers, coaches, board members and staff. It is truly inspiring for the community to come together to support our mission of helping young people build character and enhance their lives through the golf and life skills education. We cannot thank you enough!! Each of you plays such a pivotal role in helping our organization succeed.

I am thrilled to announce that we will soon have a new “main” home in Sioux Falls. Construction will start in spring of 2024 at Elmwood Golf Course. Our new state of the art facility will be a hub for programming. The building will have an indoor short game area, simulators, outdoor classroom and offices. The new facility will allow us to conduct year – round programming with a focus on those kids that need us most, the at-risk and underserved.

Julie | CEO | ED, First Tee – South Dakota

As we are concluding our programs for 2023, I am thrilled to share with you the impact of our organization, First Tee – South Dakota. This was a significant year for us in improving our impact, deepening our focus on DE&I, and building a community of game changers. I am very happy to report to you all that the “state of First Tee – South Dakota is STRONG.” Through the tireless efforts of our hardworking staff, coaches, volunteers and the exceptionally strong support of our Board of Directors our organization has had the best year in the history of our organization.

We remain focused on our purpose – to enable our kids and teens to build their strength of character that enables them through a lifetime of challenges. Our key commitments to pursue goals, collaborate with others, and build positive self -identity were evident in our impactful programming at golf courses, elementary schools, and in partnership with our afterschool programs that impact at risk and underserved youth.

Our efforts in Sioux Falls and across the entire state have been enhanced with our partnerships with strong community-minded organizations like Salvation Army, Brookings Boys and Girls Club, Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club and so many others who join us in our mission to positively impact the youth of South Dakota through the game of golf.

Thank you to everyone who participated, who coached, who volunteered with us in 2023! Your invaluable contributions enable our organization to provide meaningful, life changing experiences to the kids in our state. We appreciate you!!

Dave Austad | Board Chair, First Tee – South Dakota



First Tee | Age-Based Programming

Building Game Changers

As we transition to age-based programming, our curriculum has evolved to better meet the needs of our youth. While the nine Core Values have been de-emphasized, our participants are becoming Game Changers through our new commitments.



Pursuing Goals



Growing Through Challenge



Collaborating With Others



Building Positive Self-Identity



Using Good Judgement

Current First Tee – South Dakota

Board of Directors and Executive Committee

President

Dave Austad, Sioux Falls

Vice President

Dean Zahn, Aberdeen

Secretary-Treasurer

Chris Thornton, Sioux Falls

Directors

Jack Hieb, Aberdeen
 Christie Aberson, Sioux Falls
 Jordan Anderson, Sioux Falls
 Karla Byrum, Sioux Falls
 Kristy Griffin, Sioux Falls
 Jay Huizenga, Sioux Falls
 Tom Jansa, ex Officio, Sioux Falls
 Tommy Johnson, Sioux Falls
 Kate Patrick, Sioux Falls
 Ryan Trasamar, Sioux Falls
 Jackie Witlock, Aberdeen
 Rich Wells, Rapid City

CEO | Executive Director

SDGA Jr Foundation & First Tee – South Dakota
 Julie Jansa

Operations Director

Kelli Sinksen

Program Coordinator, Sioux Falls

Chantel Brende

Chapter Outreach Coordinator

Jody Driscoll

Regional Coordinator, Brookings

Mitch Miller



south dakota

Founded in 2007 with 227 participants

We have since grown to...

1,632

Golf Course Program Participants

More Than **32,310**

Participants in the School Program

79

Elementary Schools

2,434

Participants in Chapter Led / Outreach & Community Programs

With...

51

Caring and Trained Coaches

Where We Are Now



Featured Alumni

I have been involved with First Tee - South Dakota for well over half of my life. When I began as a participant, I was shy and lacked confidence. Using First Tee curriculum, numerous coaches developed me into a confident leader with a love for the game of golf. The leadership skills I developed as a participant greatly prepared me for my time at the United States Military Academy. While my time in uniform is complete, I now serve as a coach to give back to a program that gave me so much.

~ Max Martin - Alumni



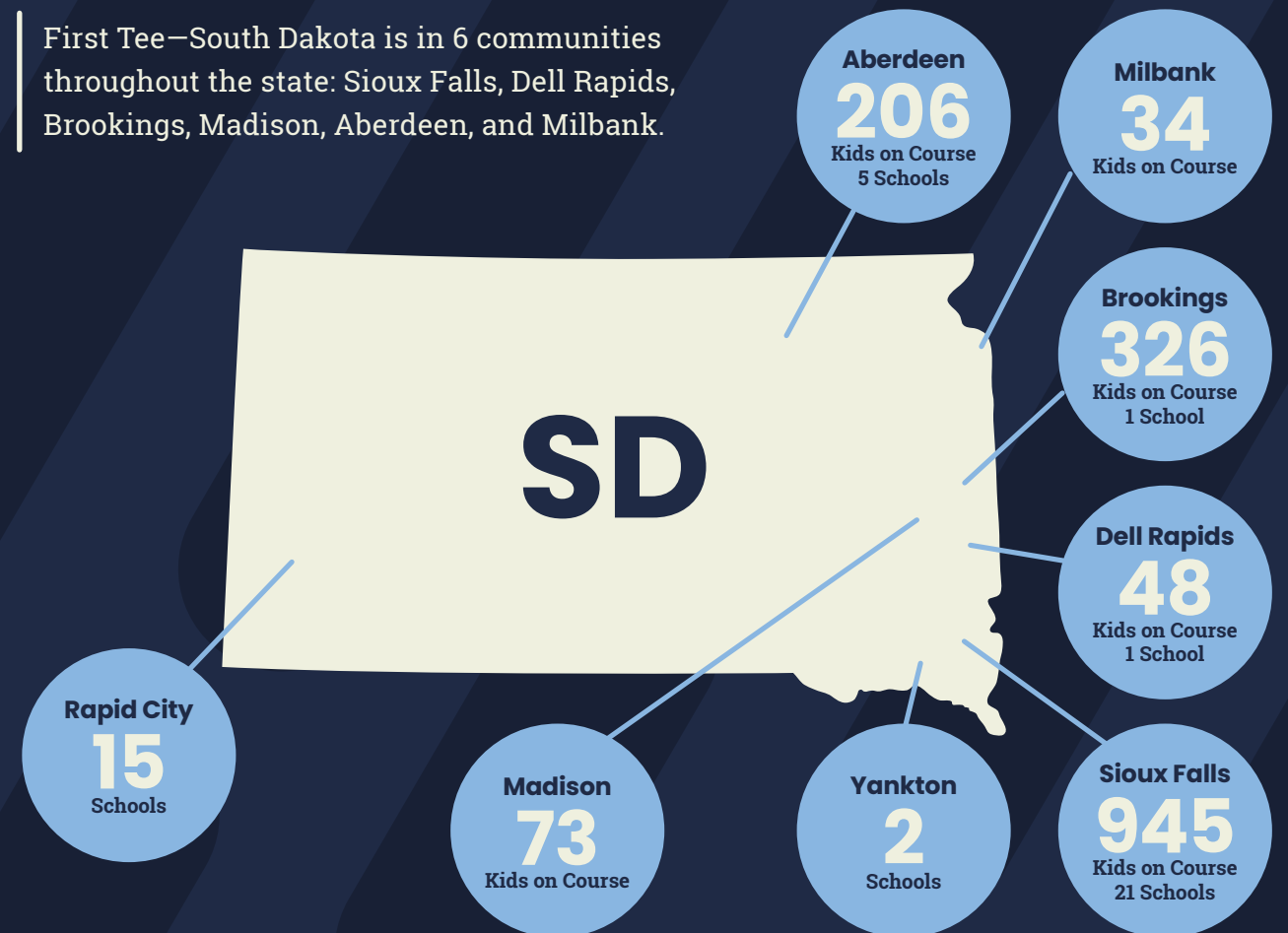
Golf has always been an important aspect of my life. It started when I grew up playing the game and it continued to grow through the First Tee - South Dakota. I was fortunate to attend the National Opportunity of the Future Leaders Forum in Orlando, Florida, where I met so many amazing individuals. That experience helped prepare me for my future plans of college and my dream of playing college golf. I continued to use the life skills and core values that were instilled in me through the First Tee during my time at Mount Marty University and Northwestern Health Sciences University, as I prepared to become a chiropractor. I continued to support the First Tee as a coach when I was able to help during my breaks from college and graduate school. Now as a small business owner of my chiropractic clinic - Links Chiropractic, I still continue to support the First Tee whenever I am able. Outside of the clinic, I am a volunteer firefighter and a head golf coach for a local high school. The life skills and core values that I learned through the First Tee are part of my teaching points as a chiropractor, a golf coach, a firefighter, and an active community member. I want to thank the game of golf and the First Tee for making me who I am today.

~ Dylan Brende - Alumni



State Review

First Tee—South Dakota is in 6 communities throughout the state: Sioux Falls, Dell Rapids, Brookings, Madison, Aberdeen, and Milbank.



- Program Locations -

Aberdeen

Moccasin Creek Country Club & Lee Park Golf Course
First Tee Program on the Golf Course, School Program, Chapter Led
Lead - Dean Zahn

Brookings

Edgebook GC | Brookings CC
First Tee Program on the Golf Course, School Program
**Leads - Greg Heiberger
Jordan Hilbert / Mitch Miller**

Dell Rapids

Rocky Run Golf Course
First Tee Program on the Golf Course, School Program
Lead - Jeff Easter

Madison

Madison Country Club
First Tee Program on the Golf Course, School Program
Lead - Michael Sullivan

Milbank

Whetstone Creek Golf Course
First Tee Program on the Golf Course
Lead - Cody Pohlen

Sioux Falls

Elmwood Golf Course & Kuehn Park
First Tee Program on the Golf Course, School Program, Community Program, and Chapter Led
Lead - Chantel Brende

*34 additional schools across the state

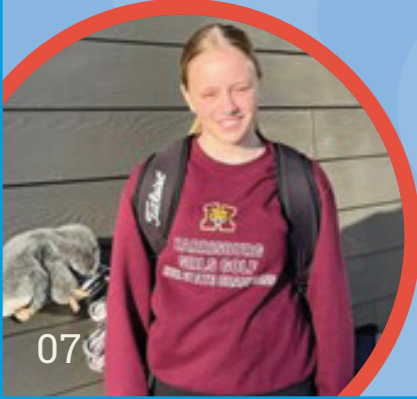
I have been bringing my grandkids to the First Tee program for over 10 yrs. This year it was my youngest granddaughter's turn. She is 10 yrs old and it was her first introduction to golf. She took to it right away and enjoyed the learning and drills that she had each week. It was a wonderful time for me, as well, because we would play 9 holes together after her First Tee lessons were done. She really improved over the summer, and I hope she will continue to learn about the game and her love of golf will grow. The staff was great and encouraging to the kids. What a wonderful opportunity for these kids to learn a sport that they can play all their lives and maybe someday play with their grandchildren!! Thank you to all the First Tee coaches and staff!!

Janet Boyum,
First Tee – South Dakota Grandparent



Our family has been part of the First Tee organization for the past 15 years; both of our daughters started in First Tee as Little Duffers. First Tee – South Dakota started off by giving them the basic introduction to golf skills but also emphasizing the core values to help shape them as a strong person. Over the years First Tee has helped them build their self-confidence and leadership abilities as they have interacted and met other kids their age as well as adults that are part of the local golf community. Through First Tee our older daughter, Mattie, has been given the opportunity to be a part of the Innovator's Forum and Pure Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach. Our younger daughter, Addyson, is continuing to improve not only her golf skills but also her ability to meet new people. First Tee – South Dakota has been such a positive experience for both Mattie and Addyson and we have seen them both use the tools that they have learned in First Tee. We would recommend the program to everyone.

Nancy Weidenbach,
First Tee – South Dakota Family



What the Parents Say...

2023 Scorecard

First Tee—South Dakota impacts the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

The following scorecard is a snapshot of our results in 2023



1,632

First Tee Program Enrollment on the Golf Course



51

Certified Coaches



79

First Tee School Program Partners



2,434

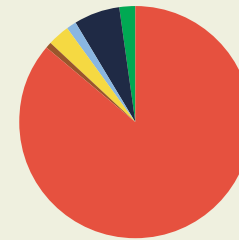
First Tee Community Programs & Chapter Led



36,434

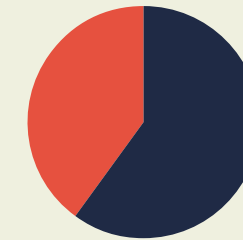
Total Youth Served

Ethnicity



- Caucasian (87%)
- Asian (1%)
- African American (2.5%)
- Latino (1%)
- Multi-Racial (6.5%)
- Native American (2%)

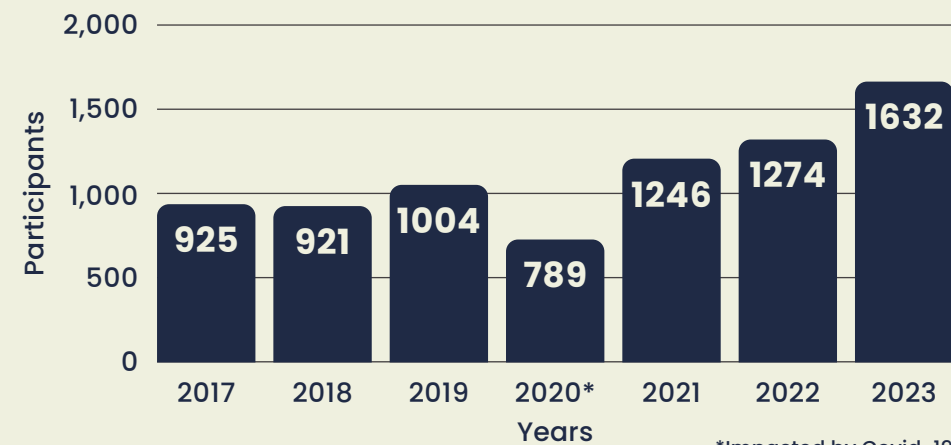
Gender



- Male (60%)
- Female (40%)

Impact

Taking a look at on-course participants through the years



Homework and Hitting

90 Minutes
of afterschool care at our partner facilities, where the kids are.

First Tee – South Dakota, in partnership with the Salvation Army, Brookings Boys and Girls Club, and Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club, is bringing programming to their community, to their youth centers.

Youth involved in our programs are more likely to be **engaged in school** and feel more **comfortable around peers**.



90 Minute Breakdown

35
Minutes

The first 35 minutes will be focused on providing caring coaches and mentors who engage the kids in reading and math exercises

35
Minutes

The second 35 minutes will enhance their golf and life skills through coaching on simulators and through virtual reality

20
Minutes

The remaining time will be used to address food insecurities by ensuring that the kids go home with a full stomach and healthy snacks



Our Programs

First Tee Program

Participants ages 5-18 progress through the program over time, deepening their understanding of life skills and golf development. The integrated approach helps kids and teens build confidence & resilience for when they are on the course, at home and in school.

Every participant has the opportunity to:

- Learn the game of golf and how it relates to life.
- Focus on interpersonal and self-management skills on and off the course.
- Set goals and put strategies in place to make them a reality.
- Learn conflict resolution, resilience and how to plan for the future

First Tee School Program

79 elementary schools in South Dakota participate in our School program, which includes the curriculum and equipment, to bring the game of golf and the life skills we teach to indoor gym classes.

First Tee Community Programs

First Tee Community Programs designed to bring the game of golf to the community and recreation centers. We currently work throughout South Dakota in Boys & Girls Club, and Salvation Army.

First Tee Chapter Led

Events designed to expose, engage, and recruit non-First Tee participants to First Tee programming. This outreach is done outside of our official partner and location bases i.e. youth serving events, community nights, and kids fairs.



National Opportunities

Thanks to First Tee HQ, national corporate sponsors and generous donors, First Tee is able to offer a variety of educational and leadership opportunities for our participants each year. These events often become life-changing experiences for our participants as they further develop awareness of the possibilities that surround them.



Luke Martin
Game Changers Academy
in Philadelphia, PA

Ace Participant

ACE PARTICIPANTS

Ace is the highest level of completion from First Tee. To complete the Ace program, participants must complete four major projects centered on community service, career, educational opportunities, and golf. Ace certification is the final step and the pinnacle of the First Tee program. The certification requires a high level of personal planning through First Tee's programs that include interpersonal, self-management, goal-setting, self-coaching, and resiliency skills.

“ The students will build an important foundation for success in higher education and career planning.”



Mattie Weidenbach
Ace Participant



“Purposeful practice on Wednesdays has literally changed my sons life! He has a place where he knows he is welcomed every single week. Coach Tyler has formed a meaningful connection with Marshall and challenges him to try hard things every single Wednesday. The support First Tee has offered is shimmering, we will treasure for a lifetime! **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SHARED IN OUR EXPERIENCE AT THE FIRST TEE!**”

“Our 11 year old daughter just asked to be signed up for her first ever match/tournament! The Adult/Junior tournament at Moccasin Creek Country Club! She had a wonderful time and can't wait to register for more!”

“Love the confidence that it helps them build!”

“Others who have golfed with my son in previous years commented on his significant improvement this year.”

“He was always excited to go to golf. The coaches were fantastic—positive and patient.”

“I liked how there was a lot of emphasis on sportsmanship and rooting for one another.”

“My son talks about the coaches encouraging and correcting his form.”

“Coach Jeff and Coach Paul have been patient and helpful to my son.”

“Our son is learning to play golf and connecting more with his dad as it is now something they can do together and bond.”

“Coaches remember the kids year after year and always make them feel at home when we start and lessons learned are great. Coaches make the difference”

“My son has ADHD and does not do well with team sports, relying on other people for success. Golf is the only sport he has been interested in and this program gives him that opportunity and he loves being a part of it.”

Why A Learning Center

Our organization will build a Learning Center on Elmwood Golf Course in Sioux Falls as part of the city's plan to rebuild the facilities. The Learning Center will allow our organization to have significant growth and deeper impact by having the ability to impact kids year-round, in a fun learning environment. Our year-round programs will allow us to focus on kids that are under served and at-risk, the kids that need us most.



The Learning Center

will be 3600 sq ft. have an open, multi-use classroom, golf simulator, office spaces, outdoor classroom, and kitchen.



Learning Center — Amenities —

- 1,200 sq. ft. dual purpose classroom + putting green
- Indoor simulator
- Outdoor classroom
- Storage and staff offices



FIRST TEE CLASSROOM



BREAK ROOM



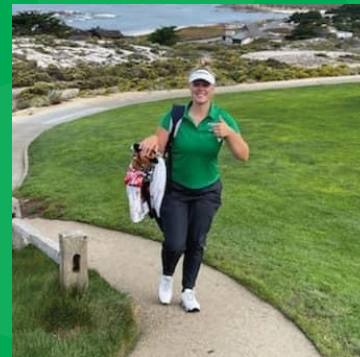
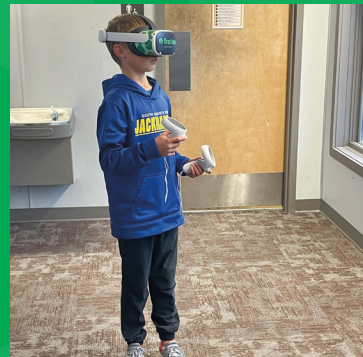
FIRST TEE CLASSROOM



FIRST TEE FRONT ENTRANCE

The First Tee®, a youth development organization that empowers kids and teens through the game of golf, will occupy the secondary building, visible from the pro shop. It features a classroom with a golf simulator, offices and break room. This building will also house the SDGA offices.





2023 Donors

ACE: \$30,000+

First Tee Trustee
Sanford Family Foundation
Sanford Health

Eagle: \$15,000+

Anonymous Donor - Brookings
Austad's Invitational
Charles Schwab Grant
First Premier Bank
Gavin Van Zee Golf Tournament
Jim and Jane Harrenga
PGA Tour First Tee Foundation, Inc

Birdie: \$5,000+

Brass Family Foundation
Dean Zahn
Doug and Charity Muth
First Premier Bank
Helen Boen
Hy-Vee | Sanford Legends
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Jeff Malone
LPGA Foundation
PWGO
Sanford International
Scheels
Scott Sletten
Sioux Empire United Way: Connecting Kids
T-Bros Logistics
TORO
USGA

PAR: \$1,000+

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Christie Aberson
Craig McTighe and Family
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Dan Kirby
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Ryan Angelo
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Sova Foundation
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State Farm | Andy Ainslie
Tommy Reynolds
Wright and Sudlow

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IN MEMORY

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Cal Willemson
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Jon Trasamar
Mike Atkins

IN-KIND

B&G Cliff
Brookings CC
Edgebrook GC
Elmwood Golf Course
Great Shots
Kuehn Park GC
Landscapes Unlimited
Lee Park GC
Madison CC
Moccasin Creek CC
Rocky Run GC
Sioux Falls Golf
Tom Biegler
Whetstone GC



Thank You KIDS & COACHES



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