



The First Tee®

Yakima 2017 Newsletter

WINTER



The First Tee®
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2017... Here We Come!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of The First Tee of Yakima chapter, and we want to celebrate all year long! First off, our annual Breakfast with the Pros, scheduled for April 28, will be held in the brand spankin' new field house at the Sozo Sports Complex! This new venue will allow for more Breakfast guests, and provide them the opportunity to see the dream of the future of The First Tee of Yakima, all laid out on the actual land we plan to develop.

Our guest speakers will be our own participants, Max Turnquist and Dylan Bissell. These young men had the experience of a lifetime after being selected to play with the Pros this past summer at the Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach! With their parents and several coaches in the gallery, Max and Dylan have gathered a great collection of photos, and have put together a wonderful presentation!

Finally, we are super excited that New Leaders of Yakima has selected The First Tee as one of their annual projects, and they will be greeting and helping run the Breakfast, as well as several other activities throughout 2017!



Save the Date

Mark your calendars now for **APRIL 28**, and be a part of the most exciting Breakfast ever!



TEE UP 4 KIDS!

We know it's early, but the date has been set for the second "Tee Up 4 Kids" Tournament at Yakima Elks & Country Club. Last year's event was a complete hit, so we want to make sure you have plenty of time to set aside the afternoon of **Friday, September 22** and plan join us!

As a small non-profit organization serving local youth, fundraising is an important element to The First Tee of Yakima's every day existence. Having regular, dependable sponsors helps ensure that operations are maintained, and that when a child needs a scholarship, it can be provided. This year, Granite Construction and Les Schwab Tires are the two businesses that have stepped up to say, "We Care."



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Where Are They Now?

As The First Tee reaches its 10th birthday, a number of participants who started out in the program way back when have aged out and are preparing to make their impact on the world.



Tyler Andringa is one of those kids. You may remember him; a slight, blonde boy with an infectious smile, Tyler was the participant speaker at two Breakfast with the Pros events. In 2014, he was selected as an "Achiever of the Year" by the National First Tee and was awarded a \$15,000 scholarship. Upon graduation from high school, he used that money to enroll in the IT program at Perry Technical Institute. In December, he graduated from the program—with honors—and after receiving a few job offers, he selected Continuant Communications in Fife, Washington as the company for him to begin his career. *We are so proud of Tyler. He really is the personification of the word perseverance! Keep up the good work, Tyler!*

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

This issue's Participant Spotlight shines a beam on Kaylee Casteel. Kaylee has participated in The First Tee with her twin brother, Caden, since she was eight. Though she's only eleven years old, she has just reached the Birdie level in the program, and is eagerly looking forward to the spring so she can get out and golf again.



A fifth grader at West Valley Middle School, when Kaylee's not out golfing, Kaylee can often be found hip hop dancing at CoMotion Dance Center for the Arts, or perfecting her Jiu Jitsu throws at the YMCA. She is a girl of many varied talents!

Kaylee's favorite core value is **CONFIDENCE**. "Confidence makes me braver. Confidence makes me hit golf balls farther each time I play golf," she says. "Confidence has given me the ability to overcome stage fright when I dance, and it also helped me start Jiu Jitsu, which will help me protect myself and stand up to bullies."



Her parents, Shelley and Wes Hurst, are proud of her and inspired by the confidence she has achieved. "She works hard to be the best person she can be," explains her mom. "She always seems able to find the best in every situation. We love her super positive outlook."

Kaylee has a passion for animals, and is hoping to be a veterinarian someday. With her attitude, it's pretty likely to happen. Congratulations, Kaylee on working hard and being a role model to us all!



Participant Opportunities

You may know that The First Tee is about youth development and golf, but did you know there are also a number of other opportunities available to program participants? Thanks to corporate partners, The First Tee offers a variety of unique opportunities to participants that further their golf and life skills experience.

The First Tee Home Office has recently added five new participant opportunities, including the John Deere "Drive Your Future" Academy for girls, the "Perfect Sense Unified Challenge", and the 2017 Alumni Summit. Along with Leadership Trainings, Internships, and College Scholarships, these opportunities can become life-changing events for youth participants, helping them to realize the possibilities that surround them.

For a complete list of these valuable prospects, please visit www.thefirsttee.org and click on "Youth Opportunities" under "Programs."



WINTER FUN!

A great group turned out for the second annual "Skate Night" winter activity. Program Director Mollie Thola—and her husband Joe—are both former professional ice skaters, and love having the chance to get young people out to give it a try!



Spring Golfing Opportunities

Spring is on its way... and with those longer days and warmer temperatures comes that itch to get out and golfing again! Fortunately, your First Tee has got some opportunities for you!

If you're in town during Spring break, plan to share the week with us at The First Tee Spring Break Camp. Participants will have the opportunity to get a jump on the season through three, two-hour sessions of instruction with Program Director Mollie Thola.

Classes will run at Suntides on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; April 4, 5, and 6.

PLAYer Level will meet from 10:00 to 12:00 noon.
PAR and up from 12:30 to 2:30.
Cost is \$40.

Spring Session is scheduled to kick off April 24. Classes will run from 4:00 to 5:45 PM at Suntides.
PLAYer level will meet Mondays and Wednesdays
PAR and up will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$75.

Complete registration and scholarship information for Spring Break Camp and Spring Session can be found at www.thefirstteeyakima.org

