



Certification Process

Dear Parents and Participants,

It is the goal of The First Tee of Milwaukee County to have participants who complete the Life Skills Experience and have acquired basic golf skills demonstrate certain fundamental life skill concepts - such as interpersonal communication and the importance of rules and etiquette. At each level of the program -- Par, Birdie and Eagle - participants will go through a Certification Process that tests and evaluates participants' understanding of and ability to apply what was taught.

The primary objective of the Certification Process is to ensure that participants have been exposed to core lesson material and understand concepts and skills presented. Certification testing is an opportunity to reinforce those concepts. The process is designed to provide additional assistance to those who need help in certain areas while advancing other students to the next level to acquire further life and golf skills instruction.

The First Tee Certification Process has four major elements: completion of golf and life skills lessons, the playing requirement, the short written test, and the instructor evaluation. If a participant is having difficulty with any of these elements, instructors will help review the material and let him or her try again. Each of the testing and evaluation forms state the specific score required to pass the golf and life skills sections at the Par, Birdie, and Eagle levels.

The lessons learned through the Life Skills Experience are lessons that remain with young people well into their future, regardless of how long they play golf.

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Honesty - Integrity - Sportsmanship - Respect - Confidence - Responsibility - Perseverance - Courtesy - Judgment
The First Tee's Nine Core Values are at the center of everything we do.

The First Tee of Milwaukee County

Life Skill and Golf Skill Lessons

At each program level, participants will complete a minimum of four life skill and golf skill lessons. For life skills, the requirement is to complete the core lesson material. Completion of optional topics and activities are a plus, but are not mandatory. If any participant misses a core lesson, the material must be made up, either through one-on-one instruction or a makeup class, before he or she undergoes certification testing and evaluation.

Playing Requirement

At each level, participants will play a certain number of posted rounds on a Chapter course - one round at the Par level and five rounds at the Birdie level - and bring their scorecards to their evaluation. In addition, at the Birdie level, participants will play a nine-hole putting course to demonstrate basic putting skills. Instructors observe some of these rounds to ensure that the player negotiates the course expeditiously and in accordance with basic rules, etiquette, and safety guidelines. At the Birdie level, participants also will complete a chipping and pitching drill.

Written Test

For life skills and golf skills, each participant is given a short written evaluation consisting of true-false and matching questions. Where possible, instructors will administer the evaluation for golf skills and life skills at the same time.

Instructor Evaluation

The instructor evaluation is a one-on-one interview in which the instructor watches the participant demonstrate a life or golf skill or talks with the participant about life skills concepts. Testing and evaluation for life and golf skills are done concurrently, so participants understand that their life skills are as important, if not more so, than their golf skills.

After completion of the minimum for life and golf skill lessons the participant is eligible to sign up for certification evaluations. The times and days for evaluation are yet to be determined, but will be offered at least three times per month throughout the summer and fall.

Summer 2010



Courtney A. Buchach
Director of Operations and Instruction

Always looking to improve upon the programs that are already in place and to grow with the times, I am happy to announce a few new programs for the summer of 2010.

3, 6, and 9-holers at Dretzka Golf Course

This program will be offered throughout the summer at Dretzka Golf Course. To enroll in this program each participant must meet minimum requirements.

3-holers: A minimum of one season of Par programming at Noyes Park.

6-holers: A minimum of one season of Par and one season of Birdie programming at Noyes Park.

9-holers: Invitation Only

Each participant needs to supply their own golf equipment.

Hit it Hard Boot Camp

This Boot Camp will work on not only the golf swing, but the mental, physical, nutritional and giving back part of golf.

Each session will include one if not all of the five skills mentioned above.

This program is not for the faint of heart!

Opening Day Kick Off Party

This will be an opportunity for participants to see each other before the start of a new season to catch up, and will also be a great opportunity to meet and greet new students.

The golf course will be open for everyone to go out and play and the grill will be cooking up hotdogs. We will also be showing the Nike Golf apparel and clubs that can be special ordered that day!

NIKE GOLF 

The First Tee of Milwaukee County

Volunteer Spotlight: Alan "Bud" Damato



Alan Damato, or as his friends call him "Bud", has been around the game of golf almost his entire life. Growing up within walking distance from Hanson Golf Course, Bud has been golfing since he was 8 years old. Now 55, Bud is still

very involved with the game he grew up playing. "I would say I get about 8 rounds of golf in each year, but I am around the game year-round because of the In-School Golf program."

The In-School Golf program, now in its third year, is an initiative started by the Wisconsin PGA Junior Foundation and The First Tee of Milwaukee County. The program's objective is to go into High-Schools around the state and introduce the students to the game of golf as well as provide the teachers with the basic tools to teach golf. This not only includes giving them clubs and hitting mats but providing them with lesson plans as well.

Bud, who has been a physical education teacher in Milwaukee for 29 years and is currently the Adaptive Physical Education Specialist for Milwaukee Public Schools, is very involved with the In-School program. "I think the In-School program is fantastic," said Damato, "I love working with Courtney and James, they are great teachers of golf and always get positive responses from the students."

When asked what brings him back each year Damato did not hesitate when he answered, "I love the relationships that golf has given me and the joy I get from being around the game. I also enjoy the excitement of the kids and the discussion we have with the students around the 9 Core Values. Words such as respect, confidence, and perseverance are all words that I try and relate not only to golf but also to my everyday life."

Bud is also a member of the In-School and Caddy Committee and helps out with several fundraising events as well as volunteering at the US Bank Championship for the last four years.

On behalf of both the Wisconsin PGA Junior Foundation and The First Tee of Milwaukee County we would like to sincerely thank Bud Damato for all of the time and effort he has given to our programming. Bud's ability to lead by example will produce positive results for years to come. His efforts and commitment to our cause are admirable and truly appreciated. Thank you Bud!



Above, Bud Damato is teaching two students at Riverside High School how to grip a golf club.

Section News

**Milwaukee
Golf
Show
March
5th-7th**

The graphic is a promotional poster for the Milwaukee Golf Show. It features a green and white color scheme. On the left, the text reads 'golfshow' in a stylized font, followed by 'MILWAUKEE · WISCONSIN JOURNAL SENTINEL' and 'jsonline.com'. Below this, it says '2010's First Major!' and 'TICKETS ADVANCE PRICE: \$5.50 REGULAR PRICE: \$7.00'. A note states 'Children 17 & under FREE when accompanied by an adult.' On the right, a black banner says 'ADMIT ONE ADULT'. Below that, the dates 'March 5-7, 2010' are listed, along with the location 'State Fair Park Wisconsin Exhibition Center West Allis, WI'. The hours are: Friday: 1 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. At the bottom right, there are logos for the PGA of America and the PGA Wisconsin Section.

Preparations for the Milwaukee Golf show, entering its 11th year in 2010—are almost complete with the goal of making it the biggest and best Golf Show to date. The Golf Show will feature exhibits, retailers, manufacturers, seminars and interactive clinics from many of the golf industry's biggest names. It's no wonder that the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Golf Show remains the largest golf show in the state and, some say, the best in the Midwest.

Who Should Attend the Golf Show?

Anyone interested in the game of golf. The Golf Show is a great opportunity to meet representatives from the golf industry's leading brands.

What to do at the Golf Show?

Many of the top golf companies will be at this year's golf show. Seminars and contests will be ongoing throughout the weekend including: Free lessons provided by local PGA Professionals, Hole-in-one challenge, Visit local golf courses, PGA putting challenge, and the Golf Show Getaway Contest.

Where does money from the Golf Show go?

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel is donating a portion of all proceeds back to the Wisconsin PGA Junior Foundation.

When and where is the Golf Show?

Wisconsin Exposition Center @ State Fair Park
8200 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

Friday, March 5th, 1pm - 8pm
Saturday, March 6th, 10am - 5pm
Sunday, March 7th, 10am - 4pm