



First Tee provides young people with character-building and life skills lessons using golf as the platform. Through First Tee, young people discover how skills essential to success on a golf course can also help them flourish in life.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ANITRA KHOTH

I wanted to take a moment to share a little life update with you all. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 2019, I attended the University of Nevada, Reno, where I played four years of Division I women's golf and earned my bachelor's degree in public health. While golf has been a huge part of my journey, my true passion has always been in the field of pharmacy.

After graduating, I took a gap year to recharge and gain hands-on experience as a pharmacy technician

at CVS Pharmacy. During that time, I applied to Pacific University's accelerated 3-year Doctor of Pharmacy program and was thrilled to be accepted just a few months later! Since then, life has been a whirlwind, including a big move to Oregon to begin this next chapter. Currently, I am working as a Pharmacist Intern with CVS and wrapping up my summer rotations.

This fall, I'll be starting my third year of pharmacy school, and I couldn't be more excited for what's ahead!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jimmy Brink (President)

Truex Insurance

Cerissa Simmons (Vice President)

Old Republic Title

Todd Bowman (Treasurer)

Truex Insurance

Dean Ruiz (Secretary)

Mohan Law Group

Jason Carlson

SCGT Services

James DeFilippi

Wells Fargo

Erika Hulstrom-Garces

Cornerstone Real Estate

Ben Mackie

Ben Mackie Fitness

Krista Martin

Homesmart

Alan Randle

Bryson Ryan

Terrance Vaughn

New York Life

Brad Whittell

F&M Bank

Wes Widmer

Colliers International

STAFF

Chris Borrego

CEO

Lisa Ferrero

Program Director

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Karen Amestoy

Marketing

Chuck Richesin

Accounting

Anna Sass

Public Relations

Jeff Tokunaga

Insurance

Mark Silva

Justin Redman

Banking

FIRST TEE – SAN JOAQUIN CELEBRATES MILESTONES AND POSITIVE IMPACT IN 2025

First Tee San Joaquin has wrapped up a remarkable 2025, marking another year of growth and achievement for its youth golf programs. The organization hosted 507 participants, ranging from children as young as four to high school students, across six locations: Swenson Park, Reserve at Spanos Park, Micke Grove, Greenhorn Creek Resort, Elkhorn Golf Course and Escalon Golf Course. The dedicated program team and volunteer coaches worked tirelessly, instilling the five key commitments—pursuing goals, collaborating with others, using good judgment, growing through challenge, and building a positive self-identity—into the lives of young people in the region.



The chapter also saw its young golfers shine on a national stage. Three participants were selected for four prestigious National First Tee opportunities, open annually to those aged 14 and older. Kelley O'Keefe competed at the First Tee National Championship at Notre Dame University and the Pure Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach. Julian Gianelli and Kenneth Jennings attended the Game Changers Academy at the University of Minnesota, while Julian Gianelli was further honored with a spot at the Innovators Forum at First Tee headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida.

Leadership at First Tee – San Joaquin evolved as well. In 2025, the organization welcomed six new board members: Krista Martin, Alan Randle, Ben Mackie, Todd Bowman, Bryson Ryan, and Erika Hulstrom-Garces. A new executive committee was also formed, with Jimmy Brink as President, Cerissa Simmons as Vice President, Todd Bowman as Treasurer, and Dean Ruiz as Secretary. The chapter expressed gratitude to outgoing board members Karen Amestoy, Anna Sass, Jeff Tokunaga, Justin Redman, and JJ Godi, who continue to offer their support within the community.

A significant staff change highlighted the year, as Chris Borrego—who had served as Program Director since 2017—was promoted to CEO. Borrego's deep knowledge of First Tee and commitment to its mission made him the ideal leader for the chapter. Joining him is new Program Director Lisa Ferrero, a Lodi native and former University of Texas golfer who competed professionally for over a decade on the LPGA and Epson Tours. Ferrero, most recently the women's golf coach at Fresno State, brings her expertise back to her hometown.

Looking ahead, First Tee – San Joaquin continues to see great success in 2026, making a positive impact on families throughout San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties. The organization remains committed to fostering youth development and strengthening community connections through the game of golf.

Chris Borrego

CEO

FIRST TEE LEADERSHIP & IMPACT

Julian Gianelli

My leadership journey has been deeply shaped by my involvement with First Tee, where I have had the opportunity to participate in several of the organization's most selective national programs. In September 2024, I competed in the PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach, partnering with PGA TOUR professional Rod Pamplung from Australia. Competing on a world-class stage taught me how to manage pressure, stay mentally disciplined, and perform alongside elite professionals—lessons that have stayed with me both on and off the course. I still joke that even “bad words” sound better with an Aussie accent!

This past summer, I was selected for the First Tee Game Changers Academy, a weeklong national leadership program centered on empathy, inclusion, and community impact. I took part in inclusive-leadership workshops with Amazon Web Services, DEI&B sessions at Topgolf, leadership reflections, and a fireside chat with WNBA legend Maya Moore. Through on-course experiences at Highland National and The Club at Chaska, I saw how golf can be a powerful platform for connection, belonging, and social change. The program challenged me to think more intentionally about leadership as service and about my responsibility to uplift others.

In October, I was honored to be selected for the First Tee Innovators Forum, an immersive summit focused on scaling community-impact ideas. I participated in innovation workshops with CapTech, sustainability case studies with St. Johns Riverkeeper and Constellation's David Dardis, and collaborative leadership sessions such as Go-To Team development and “Making Headlines.” We also attended Round 1 of the Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS PGA TOUR Champions event, where I gained insight into how major tournaments integrate philanthropy and community engagement. Throughout the week, I refined a scalable model to expand my nonprofit, Crop Kindness Connect, so that high schools across the country can replicate it. I presented my final project to First Tee national leadership in May.

As a Junior Coach, my favorite part of First Tee is working directly with younger golfers. I help lead summer camps, teach fundamentals, and focus on building confidence in new players. Whether it's encouraging a hesitant beginner or becoming a camp legend by demonstrating backflips for the younger boys, these moments capture why I love coaching. For me, First Tee is about more than golf—it's about making the game welcoming, joyful, and accessible, while showing kids that they belong both on the course and in their communities.



FIRST TEE SPONSORS



RICKY & SUZANNE
BARNES FOUNDATION



BETH FRKOVICH
FOUNDATION

RUTH AND PAUL FLOWERS

Angels Food Market
Chase Chevrolet
F & M Bank
K & T Lights
Keith's Trophy Shop
Midtown Optometry
Mike and Debbie Bond
Monty's Express Car Wash
Next Level Compliance
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Oak Valley Community Bank
Play it Again Sports
Robert Marvin
San Joaquin Community Foundation
Tom Hooper
Truex Insurance
Verve IT
Ernie George Memorial Tournament
Pacific Gas & Electric
San Joaquin District Attorney's Office
North Stockton Rotary
Port of Stockton
Community Partners
Brookside Country Club
SASS! Public Relations
Chuck Richesin – Richesin Accountancy Corporation
Escalon Golf Course
Elkhorn Golf Course
Greenhorn Creek Resort
Micke Grove Golf Course
Swenson Park Golf Course
The Reserve at Spanos Park

**Give us a call and add
your company name
here (209)915-8300**



“In coaching First Tee I can give back to our community by helping young people, develop life enhancing values that will help them in the game of golf and throughout the challenges and adversity in life. The rewarding part of coaching is seeing First Tee participants grow in character as well as the game. ”

Coach Robert Cleveland



2025 STATISTICS

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS:	507
TEEN PARTICIPANTS:	123
PROGRAM LOCATIONS:	6
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:	\$4,500
FINANCIAL AID PROVIDED FOR REGISTRATIONS:	\$11,750

First Tee – San Joaquin
P.O. Box 77919
Stockton, California 95267

Phone: (209) 559-1996
Email: cmbpga@gmail.com

FIRST TEE – 5 KEY COMMITMENTS

- Pursuing Goals
- Growing through Challenge
- Collaborating with Others
- Building Positive Self-Identity
- Using Good Judgment