



# Inspiring the Next Generation of Golfers

*Hook A Kid On Golf activities are extremely popular around the country, and very easy to become involved with. Over the past several years, golf course superintendents have become increasingly involved in the various programs that Hook A Kid On Golf offers.*

*Our goal is to build better citizens through the character-building experience that golf provides.*

Any organization can adopt a program and is responsible for identifying one person who will be deemed the "Site Coordinator." In Illinois, the state office and Foundation helps these Site Coordinators with the program every step of the way. An organization can choose to adopt one or multiple program elements, based on its community, kids currently served, and other resources.

Golf Course Superintendents can assist Hook A Kid On Golf in many different ways. One of the best ways to help is by running their own programs and becoming a Site Coordinator. In that way, superintendents can relay their knowledge of the game to kids who are eager to learn and participate in the sport.

Meredith Deverman of the Peoria Park District believes that the assistance she received from a golf course superintendent with her program was

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invaluable. "It has always been great for us to involve a course superintendent in the program, to give the kids options as far as careers in golf," said Deverman. "Like the rest of us, most of the kids in the program will never be on a tour or play golf for a living, so we want them to see other ways they can still have a golf-related career."

Another way in which superintendents can help is by becoming guest speakers at local Hook A Kid On Golf sites. Topics that superintendents can lecture on or discuss include proper golf course maintenance, golf course design, and golf course etiquette. The possible topics are infinite and the kids in the program would enjoy learning about how golf courses are created and designed. Also, discussing the maintenance of the course can be helpful to them in learning how to respect the courses that they play.

Marc Heidkamp runs Hook A Kid On Golf activities with kids in the Prospect Heights Park District. "The kids that leave our program have learned to respect the golf course and to leave it better for the next player, thanks to the work our Superintendent has done in teaching them," said Heidkamp.

Hook A Kid On Golf provides communities with the structured curriculum and equipment to introduce the game of golf to kids ages 5 to 15. The Hook A Kid On Golf program has reached over 40,000 kids since its inception in 1990. These kids are not only introduced to the game of golf, but they receive special presentations on rules, etiquette, history, drug and alcohol awareness, staying in school, golf course maintenance, caddy opportunities, and more. Our goal is to build better citizens through the character-building experience that golf provides.

By working with various allied associations, recreational professionals, volunteers, and other influential people in Illinois, we hope to introduce children to the sport of golf, teach or reinforce valuable life lessons, provide career opportunities, and change a child's life.

In order to better serve junior golfers such as those who participate in Hook A Kid On Golf, industry professionals such as Golf Course Superintendents need to become more involved in programs. It is a fun and rewarding experience that can influence a kid's life forever. If you are interested in changing kids' lives through the Hook A Kid On Golf Foundation of Illinois, please e-mail the Illinois Foundation Office at [hakogillinois@earthlink.net](mailto:hakogillinois@earthlink.net) or call (630) 466-0913.

