

# Summer Internships



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I get asked several times a year if I know of any schools or programs that have interns that need to be placed. Sometimes, not always, I am wary of the question. Hiring an intern takes effort on the part of those doing the hiring.

You are making a commitment to continue the education of the intern. By definition, an intern is gaining practical experience through supervision and training. I become wary when I feel operations are looking for labor by someone that has an "interest in the industry" and therefore won't need much supervision or training. In actuality, this is quite the opposite of an intern. Those who truly want to impart their knowledge and experience on someone who wants to learn, keep reading – the industry needs you.

Some of you may recall the successful program launched by the First Tee utilizing members of the Midwest to educate and share the profession of green keeping with our youth last summer. It took place at Cog Hill and the Midwest Golf House for a day in late August. Young adults of the First Tee spent the day learning about golf course maintenance operations in the "Careers on Course" program. Based upon feedback from the attendees the day was fun and they found it to be interesting.

A few years ago the Illinois PGA started a program called GolfWorks Illinois. It was designed along the same lines as "Careers on Course" but developed as a program to expose young adults to the business side of the golf industry through an internship program during the summer.

GolfWorks Illinois is a vocational development program for Illinois high school and college students that promotes learning through hands-on work experience in the golf industry. Working together with local golf facilities and youth golf organizations, GolfWorks Illinois benefits participants in the following ways:

- Experiential Learning – A meaningful work experience via an 8-10 week internship that

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provides career exploration and professional skill development.

- Service Learning – Promoting good citizenship and the goodwill of the game participants will take part in a golf-related community service project.
- Classroom Learning – Encouraging the attainment of higher education, high school and college participants alike can apply for financial assistance through the Illinois PGA Foundation's Scholarship Fund that includes awards for industry pursuits such as Professional Golf Management and Turfgrass Science as well as merit-based via a GolfWorks Illinois scholarship.



The Illinois PGA Foundation started GolfWorks Illinois in 2010 and was inspired by the success of several educational programs, including the New York Metropolitan Golf Foundation's Golfworks program.

In an effort to grow Illinois GolfWorks, the Midwest and the Illinois PGA are planning to work together in the coming years to create a viable program for our youth. We feel this program will benefit the industry in the long run and just as important benefit the youth who participate.

The idea is simple. Encourage and assist golf courses and clubs to hire interns for the summer to expose them to the industry. During this internship, the youth will work for a few weeks in each department within the golf course operation. From a management perspective, and a turf maintenance department perspective, we realize there are hurdles to overcome. Some of the obstacles may be the early starts, limited tasks depending on the age of the intern because of child labor laws, training someone for only a couple of weeks work and onsite supervision. However, we know we can make it work. There are jobs that can be done on the course that are meaningful and can inspire the next generation of golf course superintendents. It will take some work on our part to develop an experience that may be life changing.

Most of us are in the golf business because of exposure to it during our early years. When did you realize you wanted to make a career out of it? Illinois GolfWorks wants to be the answer to that question to the next generation of golf industry professionals.

## Don't Miss the Midwest Hospitality Reception

The evening of:  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014  
Miller's Ale House  
8963 International Drive  
Orlando, FL 32819

Please plan to join the Golden Tee Club Sponsors to celebrate the Midwest.

If you have any questions or would like to sponsor the event, please contact MAGCS:

630-243-7900 or luke@magcs.org

