



Super Role Models

By **Kris Pinkerton**, Golf Course Superintendent, Oshkosh Country Club



The rush to prepare our golf courses for spring opening is over, and the summer's tournament and outing schedule is well under way. Schools have let out for the summer months which have allowed us to fill those vacant seats in the break-room. Amen!

Years ago, as a young inexperienced seasonal crew member, I was very excited about the upcoming summer tournaments! While cutting those laser-guided straight lines on greens, I remember thinking that there was no way my boss could come even close to matching this perfection! And changing cups before the club championship gave me a chance to outwit the best of putters.

Looking back now, the years spent working on golf courses taught me a number of valuable lessons as I grew up. I learned to put forth an effort to be a good listener and effective communicator. The summer work allowed me to gain confidence in myself and in my abilities. Working on a golf course also allowed me to make friends and interact with my peers. Some of these individuals were wonderful

role models and many of those friendships continue on to present day. I owe the profession a lot for what it has given and taught me.

That is why each season, just as summer help is reporting for duty, our full-time staff sits down to discuss our role as supervisors and responsible adults. It is important that as adults we give proper support and guidance as our young seasonals wade through the summer months. A poorly executed job assignment may not be as detrimental to an employee's psyche as is his or her supervisor's reaction to that assignment. And even if they had completed the assignment cor-

rectly, critiquing their work in a negative fashion can affect their confidence.

We as adults may also have forgotten, or may not understand, how much our young seasonals depend upon us for our approval. It should be our duty as supervisors and adults to retain the vision that the objective of summer employment is to ask the best of one's self, to build character and self esteem, and most importantly enjoy the summer months working outdoors.

Sometimes it is the little things in life that forge the character that will carry all of us to new heights in the future. Enjoy the summer! ♣



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