

Toro Championship Tournament Training Program Winners Announced

Six members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America have been selected to learn first-hand what it takes to prepare for the most prestigious golf tournaments in the world. As winners of the Toro Championship Tournament Training Program, three participants will attend the U.S. Open at Bethpage State Park, Farmingdale, New York, and three the PGA Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club, Chaska, Minn.

Joining superintendent Craig Currier at Bethpage State Park will be Daniel Kaar, assistant golf course superintendent at Plum Creek Country Club, Carmel, Ind.; Darren Reddekopp, assistant golf course superintendent at Pinebrook Golf & Country Club, Calgary, Canada; and Justin Peloquin, student at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. Joining superintendent Jim Nicol, CGCS at Hazeltine National Golf Club will be Robert Raley, assistant golf course superintendent at Hobbit's Glen Golf Club, Columbia, Md.; Guy Prettyman, assistant golf course superintendent at Hickory Hills Golf Club, Oak Grove, Ohio; and Michael Fuester, student at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.

Winners help maintain the course during the entire week of the tournament and attend meetings and meet individually with the host superintendent.

The six winners were selected from 39 assistant superintendent and 23 student entries that included past work experience and an essay about future career goals. Currier and Nicol then selected the participants from a slate of finalists.

The Toro Company established the Toro Championship Tournament Training Program in partnership with the GCSAA to provide an opportunity for assistant superintendents and student members to learn what happens at the highest level of golf course management. The Toro Championship Tournament Training Program is part of the Toro Scholars Program, which promotes professionalism in turf careers through scholarships, education and training programs throughout the industry.

"We established the Toro Championship Tournament Training Program to bring the experience and knowledge of major tournament preparation to GCSAA's junior members," said John Wright, director of golf marketing of Toro's Commercial Division. "The experience is designed to expose superintendents at the beginning of their careers to a variety of cultural practices and management techniques that make major tournaments a success."

The Toro Company is a \$1.35 billion company with more than 4,700 employees worldwide. It is a provider of outdoor maintenance and beautification products for home, recreation and commercial landscapes.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.

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