

GCSAA First Tee Program

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has established its commitment to the World Golf Foundation's The First Tee initiative as part of the Association's position on the project's advisory committee.

"Junior golf is a subject near and dear to the heart of GCSAA and its members," GCSAA President George Renault, CGCS said. "The vast majority of our members first experienced the game at an early age playing and/or working at a golf facility. The First Tee Initiative combines the resources of the nation's golf governing bodies to provide access to the sport for those who otherwise may not have had the opportunity."

Among the activities GCSAA has committed to include:

1. Provide GCSAA members as role models for minority programs.
2. Provide support for The First Tee through GCSAA's internal and external media outlets.

3. Development of an operations manual for maintenance of First Tee facilities.

4. Solicit in-kind donations from industry partners.

5. Support the environmental education of youth in conjunction with First Tee facilities.

6. Facilitate chapter support for maintenance programs for First Tee facilities.

7. Coordinate with chapters to provide labor from local golf course maintenance facilities.

8. Conduct turfgrass/environmental research at First Tee facilities.

9. Develop a charity event around GCSAA's annual 800-member Golf Championship, presented in partnership with The Toro Co.

The primary contribution of participants in The First Tee initiative will be the provision of expertise and consulting advice, land planning service and other

services to reduce the total cost of each project. President George Bush is the honorary chairman, while the oversight committee includes the PGA TOUR, USGA, Augusta National Golf Club, PGA of America and the LPGA. Joining GCSAA among the organizations on the advisory committee are the National Golf Foundation, American Society of Golf Course Architects, National Golf Course Owners Association, Tiger Woods Foundation, American Junior Golf Association, National Minority Golf Foundation and National Association of Junior Golfers. Numerous other organizations are participating as well.

"GCSAA is an organization that is important to the infrastructure of the game of golf," Renault said. "Our commitment will hopefully play a key role in establishing The First Tee facilities. But the true strength of the association is the people who volunteer their time and knowledge to benefit their communities."

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