



# **My First Tee Experience**

**A collection of essays, favorite moments  
and special encounters  
from members of  
First Tee - Greater Pasadena**

# Finding Confidence

Jonah Rouse, 13 years old  
Birdie Level

My name is Jonah Rouse and I am 13 years old. I took my first golf lesson at The First Tee when I was in the first grade. I was 6 years old and I have played golf and been a member of The First Tee ever since. I am on the Birdie Level and I plan to be in The First Tee until I go to college and then I want to be a volunteer.

What I like most about taking classes at First Tee is the people. When I was little I got bullied because I was short and I needed extra help in school. I still do. When I came to The First Tee my Mom said I hit the ball the first time I swung a club and I loved it. She would come to my room after I went to sleep and find golf balls and clubs in bed with me. I loved it and wanted to go play every day.

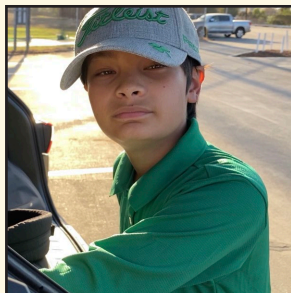
Golf is my favorite, but I like playing every sport except soccer. I don't get it. I can hit a baseball and play too, but it's not my favorite either. After golf, I like playing basketball the most, then football and I love to swim. I like playing video games like NBA 2K and Madden. I can play Chess too, and like playing.

I like all of the First Tee nine core values but one of my favorites is confidence. I learned to look people in the eye when I introduce myself and take my cap off and shake hands before we tee off and at the end of a round. We have to give a fist bump now. I'm more confident when I do my homework, read and answer questions in class and I'm not embarrassed to ask for help. I know what club I'm going to use and I'm more confident with how I'm going to recover from a bad shot. I act and model now, which I never thought I would do.

With my bullies, I speak up now and most of them don't try to bully me anymore. I use my words and I know nobody is perfect.

I am still growing and got a lot to learn about life and myself and I know I'm going to make some more mistakes as I grow up. But I am glad I have my Mom, my coaches and all the people in The First Tee who believe in those core values. I am going to be a professional actor on the PGA Tour one day. Working hard and these values will help me get there.

-Jonah



# Respect and Sportsmanship

Jonathan Liem, 9 years old  
Player Level

This is my first year at First Tee and I'm really enjoying it. My coaches are very nice and informative. My class time consists of bookwork, chipping, putting, and hitting balls at the range.

In my opinion bookwork is my favorite because I learn new things. The first tee core values are good sportsmanship, honesty, confidence, responsibility, and respect.

Respect means to be nice and kind. Sportsmanship means to be humble whether you win or lose. These are my two favorite core values. I hope to learn more and improve my golf game through the first tee.

-Jonathan



## Zombie Golf is my Favorite!

Alison Liem, 6 years old  
Target Girls Class

This is my first year at the First Tee - Greater Pasadena and I am in the Target level.

I really like the games we play in golf class. I really enjoyed the game we played today called "Zombie."

We had 2 golf balls, one was white and the other ball was yellow. We start as humans and if we are able to putt the ball into the hole we are safe.

If your ball does not make it into the hole on the first try, coach Eyna has a chance to turn you into a zombie if she hits your ball with her ball.

If you become a zombie you have to use your yellow ball and try to hit the other white balls to "infect" them. This is one of the reasons why I'm starting to like golf.

-Alison

# Treating others with Respect

Kara Lee, 8 years old  
Par Level

I have been a member of First Tee since 2020. My cousin Andrew highly recommended joining the First Tee and I'm glad that I did.

I like golf because it helps me focus and to get some great exercise under the sun. I also like that my golf classes have games on the putting green, like tic-tac-toe. And I get to spend fun time with my dad every Sunday! My dad helps me to practice every weekend.

My favorite First Tee core value is RESPECT because it is about treating you, other people and surrounding with kindness. I wouldn't go to the putting green and make a divot. That is disrespecting the golf course. It is not respectful of the golf course, other players, and the owner of the facility. I want to be a respectful person, so we could all be happy together.

My favorite activity would be soccer. Even though I don't take lessons, I can still play at school. I also love swimming! And I love Tae-Kwon-Do! I have belt testing coming up for the black belt!

I learned that the more I practice golf, the better I get. But the less I practice, the less I don't play very well. So, I will practice and get better at it. I look forward to playing golf every week. I love my coach, Eyna, because she is nice and plays golf very well. I hope she teaches me next year too.

-Kara

## Brothers that stick together, learn together



Jaxon Cua, 9 years old  
Josiah Cua, 9 years old  
Jude Cua, 7 years old  
Par Level

What I like most about golf class in the First Tee is when we do full swings with our irons. I also like when we putt. My favorite putting game is zombie. I think my favorite First Tee core value is perseverance.

- Josiah

I like putting. My favorite First Tee core value is integrity. It means to do the right thing even when nobody's watching. I enjoy reading a lot.

-Jaxon

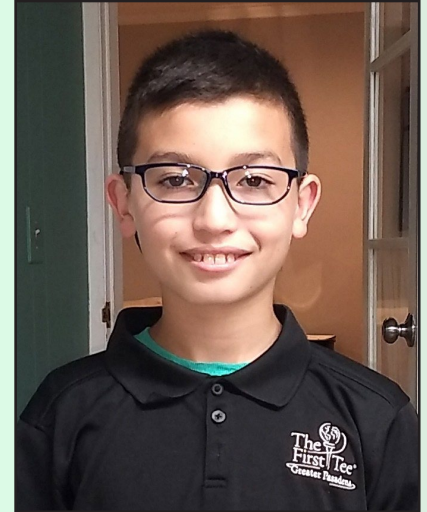
HELLO! I am learning about courtesy, honesty, perseverance and good judgement.

-Jude

# My First Tee Journey

Oliver Chew, 12 years old  
Birdie Level

My experience at First Tee has not only made me a better golfer, but a better person. They have taught me core values, such as respect, and that is only one reason why they are a good program. I would highly recommend First Tee to other kids who want to play golf, because it is a great program. It isn't super competitive, and it really helps make you a better golfer. I am going to talk about how I started First Tee, my experience currently, and what I plan to do with it.



I first started First Tee at a one week long camp. Since I was already taking golf classes, I fit in pretty well with the other kids, and was even allowed to be put into Par level. A few weeks later, I did another camp, and was tested and moved up to Birdie level, where I still am. I was in Birdie for a bunch of sessions, and did a bit of Tournament League. That was how I got started with the First Tee program.

Now, every Sunday, I go to Altadena Golf Course to have a class. Once there is another Tournament League season, I will try out for that as well. My classes always have something new to learn, such as a way to hit farther or more accurately, or to set goals and to have proper etiquette. Before I started First Tee, I was learning golf, but since then, I am learning both more golf and more etiquette. Some core values that I have learned are respect, honesty, responsibility, and many more. The most important thing to me is integrity. That is keeping your word. That is my experience now.

I hope that in the near future I can move to Eagle level, and maybe eventually, after that, I could start thinking about Ace. After my experience with First Tee, they have helped me to feel ready to enter other tournaments, possibly. I hope that First Tee will continue to grow. I intend to play golf at the high school and college levels. That is what I plan to do with First Tee in the future.

That is my experience with First Tee. I joined two camps, a bunch of classes, and a few seasons of Tournament League with First Tee. I plan to do much more with them. I have learned a lot.

-Oliver

# Yeah, we've got games at First Tee

William Li, 7 years old  
Par Level

Sophia Li, 5 years old  
Target Level



## Why I like Golf Baseball

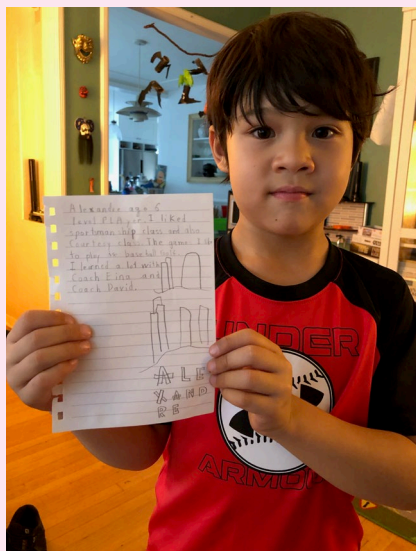
I like the game golf baseball because it makes me see how correct I am. It also makes me know how big of a swing I need to hit it in each zone. I also can practice hitting on the green and get close to the golf hole. I can also lower my scores on Tournament League days and then I would win!

-William

## Why I like Zombie Game

I love the end of Zombie game because I win a lot of times! The last people to survive win. The Zombie ball is yellow. The human ball is white. You need to make it to the hole. I like the Zombie Game.

-Sophia



Alexandre Bocciarelli, 6 years old  
Player Level

I liked sportsmanship class and courtesy class. The game I like to play is golf baseball. I learned a lot with Coach Eyna and Coach David.

-Alexandre

# Finding Friends at First Tee

Serena Lee, 7 years old  
Player Level

The things I like the most about First Tee is that when I learn about golf more and more, I get better and know more. I also like that it makes me feel confident when I play. It helps me make friends and teaches me to try again and never give up. I learned to have good sportsmanship and be happy for someone even if I lose. Because what is really important is that you enjoy playing and spending time with your friends and family. To me, First Tee is about friendship and learning. That is everything I really love about First Tee.

-Serena



## My First Tee Experience

Landon Bailey Tavi Pollard, 9 years old  
Player Level

### **What I like most about golf classes with First Tee:**

What I love so much about First Tee is that it is really open and friendly and everyone is very supportive. They really understand how to improve your game. I can tell them what I think I'm doing wrong, so they can give me feedback that I can use. They've experienced the same thing so they can teach you what you're doing. First Tee is good for your body, for your mind, and for your concentration.

### **What is your favorite First Tee core value:**

My favorite First Tee core value is perseverance. If you keep going, keep going, keep going and don't say no, then you know what persevere actually means. If your kids get everything they want in life, no offense, you won't know what perseverance is. You try hundreds of thousands of times to get this one thing right. If you're not getting it right, then you do it again. I sometimes get upset if I don't get something right on the first try, and I'm sure lots of other people can relate. In life you can't just quit if you don't get the job, the grades, the car or the house you want. You have to just keep trying. It's the same thing in golf. You keep doing it, you keep at it, you keep doing it. With enough practice and good coaching, eventually you get it.

### **What I've Learned about myself:**

I have learned a lot about myself since starting First Tee. I learned that I'm not the only one who doesn't get it right on the first try. The coaches really care about helping you improve on things that are difficult. They shine a light on the fact that we all have the potential that is amazing. It's fun to challenge myself to improve each time I get out there. That is why, First Tee is so amazing and you should join and try it for yourself.