



Twenty years ago, a simple but meaningful idea took shape at Brookside Golf Course: to introduce more young people to the game of golf and use it as a platform to teach life skills that extend far beyond the course. In the summer of 2006, we welcomed our first 66 participants into what would become First Tee – Greater Pasadena. At the time, we relied on the generosity of local men’s and women’s club members to serve as our first coaches, helping us build a program rooted in purpose from day one.

What began as a single program in Pasadena quickly grew into something much greater. As interest expanded, so did our reach, first into nearby courses like Altadena and Eaton Canyon, and then throughout the region, including Arroyo Seco Golf Course, Marshall Canyon Golf Course, Santa Anita Golf Course, Alhambra Golf Course, and Mountain Meadows Golf Course. Along the way, we built a dedicated Board of Directors and formed partnerships with organizations that share our commitment to access and inclusion, including the YMCA, Pasadena Unified School District, Boys & Girls Club, Wounded Warrior Project, Special Olympics, Running Waters Day Program, City of Pasadena Recreation Department, City of Pasadena Police Department, AbilityFirst, Villa Esperanza, and the Latina Golfers Association.

Our approach has always been rooted in more than just golf. Through First Tee’s nine core values: Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Confidence, Responsibility, Perseverance, Courtesy, and Judgment, we aim to equip young people with the tools they need to succeed in school, in their relationships, and in life. Whether through after-school programs, summer camps, or opportunities to participate in tournaments and leadership conferences, we are proud to create pathways for growth both on and off the course.

Over the past two decades, we’ve been fortunate to receive tremendous support from the First Tee national organization, the Rose Bowl Operating Company, the City of Pasadena, City of Los Angeles, among many others. The City of Pasadena’s designation of October as First Tee Month reflects the impact this program has had across our region. We are also proud to be the only First Tee chapter in the United States with established international relationships, welcoming First Tee Korea to Pasadena to connect with our participants and community leaders.

As we celebrate this 20-year milestone, we do so with deep gratitude for the supporters, partners, coaches, volunteers, and families who have made this journey possible. Your belief in our mission has allowed us to reach thousands of young people and create opportunities that truly change lives.

Looking ahead, we are energized by what’s to come. We see continued growth across our service areas, expanded access to our programs, and deeper partnerships with the corporate and community leaders who share our vision. Most importantly, we remain committed to ensuring that every young person who participates in our programs leaves with greater confidence, stronger character, and a strong sense of possibility for their future.

Thank you for being part of our story.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Baderian".

Bob Baderian
Master Executive Director



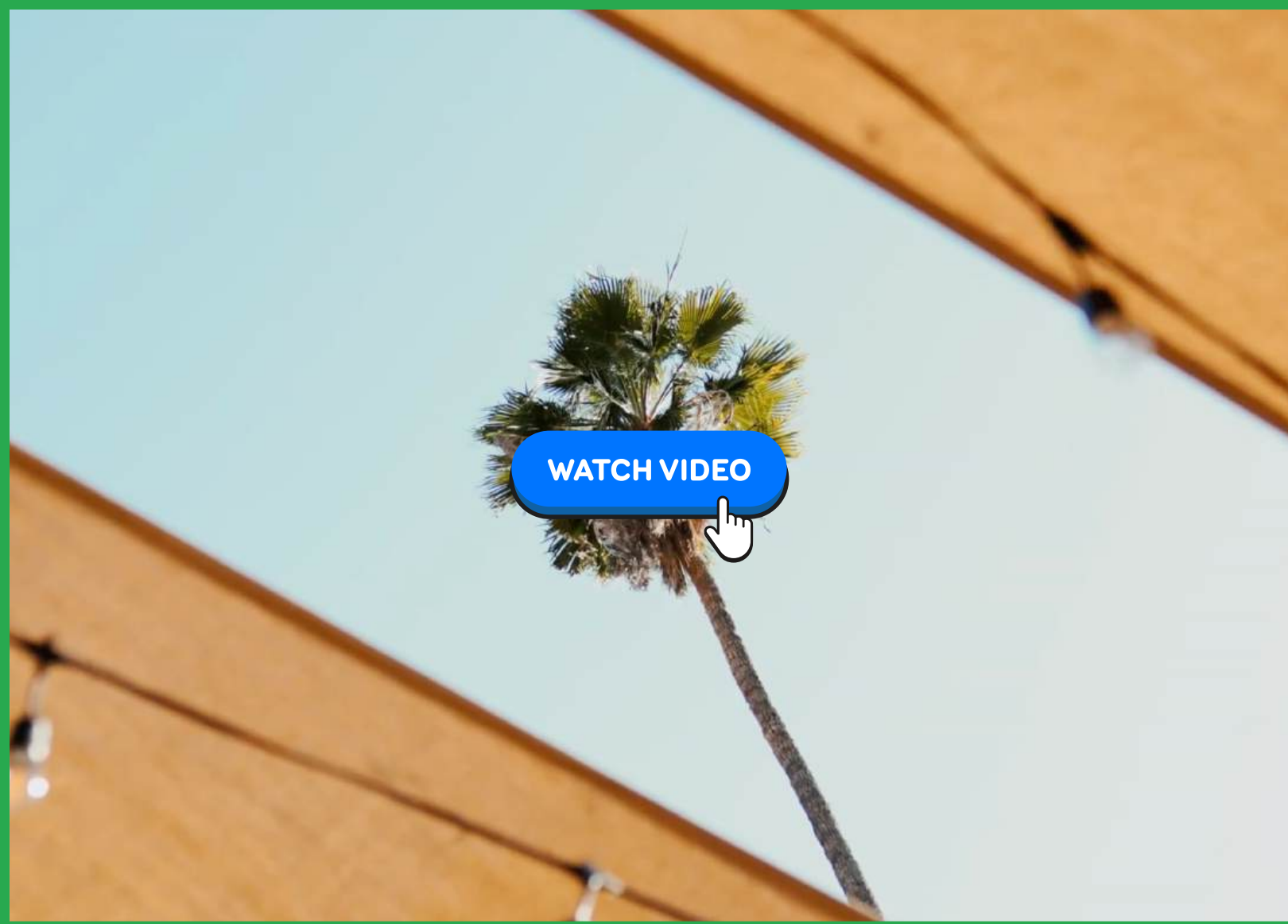
On April 28, First Tee – Greater Pasadena celebrated its 20th Anniversary Gala at Brookside Golf Club, bringing together nearly 150 supporters, including donors, partners, coaches, alumni, and current students.

In a unique reflection of the organization's mission, each table was joined by a First Tee student and coach, giving guests the opportunity to hear firsthand how the program has shaped individual journeys both on and off the course. The evening featured a special panel discussion moderated by First Tee National Senior Vice President Jennifer Weiler, with First Tee – Greater Pasadena alumna Prescilla Tea and current participants Ali Abu Rayyan and Elizabeth Clark.

The celebration concluded with a spirited live auction that helped lay a strong foundation for the organization's next chapter. We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, coached, mentored, or supported First Tee – Greater Pasadena throughout the past 20 years.

As we reflect on two decades of impact, we look forward to continuing to empower young people through the game of golf and its life lessons for the next 20 years and beyond.

[Tribute Journal](#)







From the Classroom to the Course: San Rafael Students Learn the Game

This spring, First Tee – Greater Pasadena partnered with San Rafael Elementary School to bring golf instruction and character-building lessons directly to the school’s fifth-grade students through a four-week program.

Over three weeks, students were introduced to the fundamentals of golf during their physical education classes while exploring First Tee’s Nine Core Values, including confidence, perseverance, respect, and responsibility.

The program concluded with a field trip to Brookside Golf Club and the Rose Bowl Stadium. Students put their new skills into practice on the putting green and driving range, many stepping onto a golf course for the very first time. Following their time at Brookside, students toured the Rose Bowl Stadium, where they had the opportunity to run onto the historic field and learn more about one of Pasadena’s most iconic landmarks. Thank you to our partners at the Rose Bowl Operating Company for making this experience possible.





From Greater Pasadena to the National Championship

First Tee – Greater Pasadena participants Elizabeth Clark and Ethan Kwan have been selected to compete in the 2026 First Tee National Championship, one of the organization's premier participant opportunities.

Held June 21–25 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the National Championship brings together top First Tee participants from across the country to showcase their skills and compete at an advanced level. In addition to tournament play, participants are challenged to demonstrate resilience, sportsmanship, and the strength of character developed through their First Tee experience.

Elizabeth and Ethan were selected through a competitive application process that recognizes both golf performance and personal growth. Their selection reflects the dedication they have shown on and off the course, and First Tee – Greater Pasadena is proud to see them represent the chapter at the national level.



Welcoming AbilityFirst Back to Brookside

In April, First Tee – Greater Pasadena welcomed participants from AbilityFirst back to its Community Programs at Brookside Golf Course. Founded in Pasadena, AbilityFirst has supported children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for more than 100 years through programs that promote independence, personal growth, and community connection.

Over six weeks, AbilityFirst participants and staff joined First Tee coaches each Wednesday afternoon to learn the fundamentals of golf while exploring First Tee's Nine Core Values. The program provided opportunities to build new skills, spend time outdoors, and connect through the game in a supportive and inclusive environment.



Board Member Spotlight

Renee Sun

Born in Taiwan and raised primarily in the United States, Renee Sun spent much of her childhood traveling between Taiwan and the U.S. after her parents separated when she was young. Along the way, she learned two languages, navigated two cultures, and attended ten different schools, experiences that helped shape her resilience, adaptability, and appreciation for diverse perspectives.



Renee began building her career early, working as a summer waitress in Taiwan at age 13. She later graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and at 18, encouraged by her brother, entered the banking industry as a bank teller, pursuing what was then one of the highest-paying entry-level positions. She quickly learned that success in banking is built on earning people's trust and cultivating meaningful relationships.

Renee currently serves as Managing Director and Director of Retail Banking for the Southern California Division of East West Bank, overseeing 42 branches. Having once been shy, she credits her early experiences with teaching her the importance of finding her voice, recognizing her worth, and advocating for herself. Today, she is passionate about mentoring and sponsoring the next generation of women in banking, paying forward the guidance she received throughout her own career.

Renee serves as Second Vice Chair of the First Tee – Greater Pasadena Board of Directors and was a member of the planning subcommittee for the chapter's 20th Anniversary celebration.



20TH ANNIVERSARY



first tee[®]
greater pasadena

In the Community



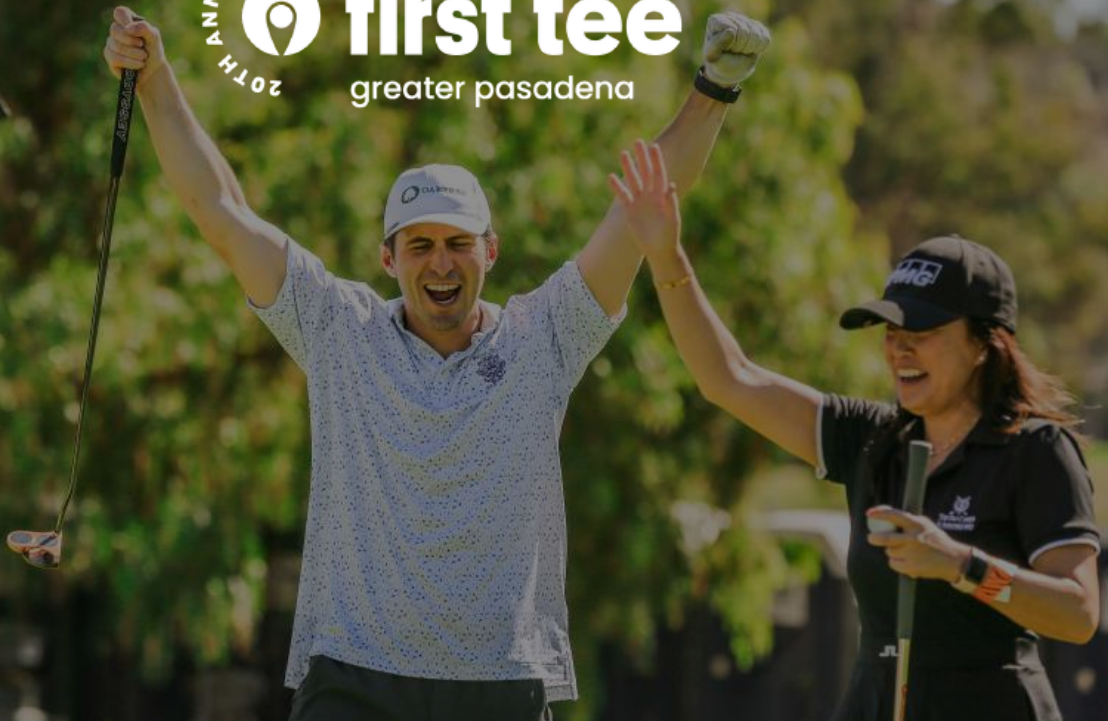
Egg Bowl

First Tee - Greater Pasadena had an information booth and a golf ball decorating station during the 2026 Egg Bowl inside the Court of Champions at the Rose Bowl. Information regarding our programs was distributed, along with free hats for all attendees.



Cinco de Mayo

Our chapter had an booth to promote our 2026 Summer Session during the UCLA Spring Game and Cinco de Mayo event at the Rose Bowl Stadium. We provided free hats and items from East West Bank to all attendees who visited our booth.



PRESENTED BY



SAVE THE DATE

2026 GOLF INVITATIONAL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

8 AM - 4 PM



8:00 AM: Registration **9:30 AM:** Shotgun (Scramble Format) **2:30 PM:** Reception

HOW TO REGISTER

firstteegreaterpasadena.org

Click **Donate Now**

Foursome: **\$1,700**

Brookside Golf Club: 1133 Rosemont Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103

