



VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

**The First Tee of Aiken
901 Houndslake Drive
Aiken, SC 29803
(803) 226-0053**

www.thefirstteeaiken.org

What is The First Tee?

The First Tee Mission

To impact the lives of young people in the Central Savannah River Area by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf, and to provide an affordable and accessible golf facility, primarily to serve those who have not previously had exposure to the game and its positive values.

About The First Tee®

The First Tee was created in 1997 to introduce young people of all backgrounds to the game of golf and the life lesson it teaches. Through The First Tee Life Skills Experience™, a curriculum for teaching character education through specific life skills, children and teenagers around the world discover how the skills essential to success on the golf course can help them flourish in life. These skills include self-management, interpersonal communication, goal-setting, mentoring and effective conflict resolution. The Life Skills Experience sets the First Tee apart from other junior golf programs and youth initiatives, and ultimately hopes to instill in participants The First Tee Nine Core Values™: honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, courtesy, judgment, confidence, responsibility, and perseverance.

About The First Tee Nine Core Values™

Golf is an ideal context for acquiring The First Tee Nine Core Values, because it is a voluntary activity that provides challenges, requires commitment and effort over time, and has clear rules. The First Tee Life Skills Experience creates a youth-centered, mastery driven climate in which young people are empowered to explore options and make decisions, two elements that are critical to the development of a child's value system.

What is The First Tee of Aiken?

The First Tee of Aiken Mission

To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

The First Tee of Aiken Vision

To teach The First Tee Nine Core Values™; providing the vehicle through which kids can accomplish their dreams, thrive socially, excel academically and athletically, and become productive members of society with integrity, strong family values and commitment to community.

About The First Tee of Aiken

The First Tee of Aiken was established in August 2009, and is a locally owned and operated nonprofit organization. The First Tee of Aiken is located at 901 Houndslake Drive. The First Tee of Aiken formed a partnership with Houndslake Country Club, a 27-hole championship course designed in 1974 by Joe Lee, who planned Doral, La Costa and Disney World. The First Tee of Aiken features a 9-hole course rotating with the three available, practice range, putting green, clubhouse/ teaching facility, concession area and PGA Professionals. Enrolled students receive quality life skills and golf instruction, discounted green fees and range balls, free use of equipment if necessary, supervised practice privileges and more. No student or group will be turned away based on their inability to pay. Special emphasis is placed on youth that are at-risk-youth, economically disadvantaged, girls, minorities, and youth with disabilities.



How do I start as a Volunteer at The First Tee of Aiken?

1. Pick an Opportunity!

- a. See the back of this page for a detailed description of all the ways you can volunteer at The First Tee of Aiken. You'll notice there wide range of positions available for our volunteers!

2. Attend an Orientation!

- a. We hold Volunteer Orientations before every programming session to give you many opportunities to discover all the different ways to get involved with The First Tee of Aiken! See our website for orientation dates and times. If these do not fit your schedule, contact Terese Armstrong, Director of Programming (terese@thefirstteeaiken.org), to arrange an individual meeting!

3. Complete the Background Check & Risk Management eLearning Course

- a. Because all of our volunteers and staff are directly involved with young people in our community, we ask that everyone complete a background screening. Once you have decided you would like to pursue volunteering at The First Tee of Aiken, please contact the office to receive instructions for completing this process.
- b. Additionally, we ask all of our Volunteer Coaches to complete the Risk Management eLearning course. Instructions for completion are located on page 6.

4. Schedule a Training/Shadowing

- a. No matter how you choose to be involved, we will provide you opportunities to train and/or shadow a current volunteer in your chosen position. Coach trainings dates are available on our website. If you are volunteering in a different area, please contact Heidi Hoffman to schedule a time to come in and train!

(Volunteer Opportunities on back)

Volunteer Opportunities

Areas	Details
Assistant Coaches	<p>Days: Weekday afternoons, Saturday</p> <p>Time Commitment: 2 1/2 hours per class for one specific class for 8 week session</p> <p>Details: Teaching class, reinforcing life skills and golf skills during class. Setting up equipment for classes.</p>
Golf Buddies	<p>Days: Tuesday and Thursday afternoons</p> <p>Time Commitment: 2 – 4 hours, as needed, and depending on amount of holes playing</p> <p>Details: Golf Buddies accompany The First Tee of Aiken students to play rounds at The First Tee of Aiken. Students will sign up in advance to play. Golf Buddies will reinforce golf and life skills concepts, help the children learn proper golf etiquette, monitor their behavior on the course, maintain pace of play, learn how to handle frustration and respect for the game, themselves and their playing partners.</p>
Practice Coaches	<p>Days: Wednesday afternoons</p> <p>Time Commitment: 1-2 hours, as needed</p> <p>Details: Practice Coaches monitor and assist The First Tee of Aiken students practicing on the range and short game areas. Students sign up in advance for Practice with a Purpose and Coaches reinforce The First Tee Life Skills needed for meaningful practice. Coaches will assist students with their practice in any area of their game.</p>
League Assistants	<p>Days: Saturdays</p> <p>Time Commitment: 1 hour or more, if you have the time</p> <p>Details: League Assistants will monitor The First Tee of Aiken league members during weekend competitions. This position reinforces the Life and Golf skills concepts while helping students play by the Rules and engage in friendly competition. League Assistants will also monitor behavior, check course safety, provide water and oversee play.</p>
Administrative	<p>Days: Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm</p> <p>Time Commitment: Any</p> <p>Details: Assist with general administrative duties</p>
Special Events and Fundraising	<p>Days: As Needed</p> <p>Time Commitment: Any</p> <p>Details: Assist with organizing, planning fundraising activities and special events.</p>
National School Program Coach	<p>Days: Weekdays during the school year</p> <p>Time Commitment: PE Class Time</p> <p>Details: Assist Aiken County Area Elementary School Physical Education teachers during their PE class to teach The First Tee National School Program.</p>
Outreach Coach	<p>Days: As Needed</p> <p>Time Commitment: Any</p> <p>Details: Assist with the Outreach Coach with programs coordinated with other youth serving organizations such as the YMCA, Children’s Place, and Helping Hands.</p>
Booth and Banner	<p>Days: As Needed</p> <p>Time Commitment: For event</p> <p>Details: Assist with organizing, planning booth and banner events for community outreach and information events.</p>

Most volunteer positions do not require golf experience. Commitment times are flexible. With your help, we can maximize each student’s experience at The First Tee of Aiken!

Benefits of volunteering: Give back to our community! Impact the youth of our community!
Complimentary rounds of golf at The First Tee of Aiken

For more information contact us at:
803-226-0053 or terese@thefirstteeaiken.org



3 Things You Need to Know to Be a Volunteer at The First Tee of Aiken

1. Safety First!

- As an organization involved directly with the youth in our community, our first priority is the safety of our young people. We require all volunteers to go through a **background check** prior to engaging in our program.
 - Please see the back of this page for details on completing the background check.
- Once you are an active volunteer, you will encounter situations that require you to use The First Tee's **STAR** to navigate to the best outcome.
 - **Stop** and take a deep breath
 - **Think** about the details of the situation and all parties involved
 - **Anticipate** all the possible outcomes
 - **Respond** with a decision that is always in the best interest of our young people

2. Fun Fun Fun!

- We want everyone engaged in our organization, from volunteers to staff to participants, to have fun! Use The First Tee's **3 Tips for Having Fun** to make your time with The First Tee of Aiken fun!
 - **Be Patient:** We are a living organization that is constantly growing and changing. We want our volunteers to simply enjoy the ride and work with us to continuously improve our program.
 - **Be Positive:** No matter how you are engaged with our organization, we want your experience to be positive! We encourage all volunteers, staff, and participants to keep a positive attitude throughout their involvement with our program.
 - **Ask for Help:** As stated previously, our organization is constantly growing and changing. You, as a volunteer, are a great resource for us and we simply want to return the favor! We are here to help you help us!

3. Live The Nine Core Values™ and The First Tee of Aiken Code of Conduct

- Our doors are open to all young people in Aiken County. No matter what capacity you are involved in, you will interact with our participants. We want our volunteers to continuously demonstrate **The Nine Core Values™**, to demonstrate to our participants that these Values go beyond our classroom doors.
 - **Honesty**
 - **Integrity**
 - **Sportsmanship**
 - **Respect**
 - **Courtesy**
 - **Responsibility**
 - **Confidence**
 - **Perseverance**
 - **Judgment**
- The First Tee of Aiken's **Code of Conduct** is integrated in everything we do. Our volunteers must continuously follow these three guidelines:
 - **Respect for Self**
 - **Respect for Others**
 - **Respect for Surroundings**

The First Tee of Aiken Volunteer Background Screenings

Background Screening Instructions - (Background screening costs are covered by The First Tee of Aiken, unless you choose the self-pay option)

1. Email Terese (terese@thefirstteeaiken.org) with interest in completing the background check.
2. You will receive an invitation from Verified Volunteers with a link and instructions for completing your online background check.

The First Tee of Aiken Risk Management and Assistant Coach eLearning Course

In-person (local and national) and online training opportunities are available to volunteers. Please contact Coach Heidi if you are interested in pursuing more training.

Safety Considerations – Operations and Youth Interactions for Volunteer Coaches

- **Facility**
 - Programming Areas
 - Golf Carts
 - Equipment
- **Student Interactions**
 - Maintain AT LEAST 2:1 ratio of adult to student
 - Avoid Contact
- **Coaching Styles**

