

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. and PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (Nov. 24, 2025) – To ensure golf and its inherent values continue to inspire future generations, the USGA has directed its latest IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility) grant funding to 29 First Tee chapters nationwide. The USGA has awarded 129 grants to chapters across the country since 2021, totaling over \$1 million since the grant program’s inception, all dedicated to supplementing the efforts of First Tee chapters in reaching communities historically underrepresented in golf.

The USGA, in its capacity as a founding partner of First Tee, directs \$200,000 annually toward local initiatives aimed at developing the game’s next generation, and mitigating the entry barriers they commonly encounter in golf.

“The USGA’s relationship with First Tee is a foundational commitment to the future of our game,” said USGA CEO Mike Whan. “IDEA grants are about more than just equipment and lessons. They break down real barriers so that more of America’s youth can step onto a course and benefit from the character-building programs that First Tee provides.”

“We are grateful to the USGA for its continued investment in making First Tee programming accessible to kids from all backgrounds,” said First Tee CEO Greg McLaughlin. “First Tee and our chapters would not be where we are today without the longstanding commitment made by USGA. It continues to be a very meaningful partnership in helping us fulfil our mission.”

Golfers access the game in varying ways from community to community, and USGA IDEA grants allow chapters to direct their funding toward strategic initiatives of their choosing. Notable activities supported by grants throughout 2025 include:

- Resources such as facility fees, coaches, registration support and volunteers to chapters in flood-ravaged areas of the country, including **First Tee – Pine Mountain** and **First Tee – Central Carolina**, allowing them to restore programming following natural disasters
- Expansion of adaptive programs offered by **First Tee – Rocky Mountains**, **First Tee – Tri-Valley**, **First Tee – Southeastern New Mexico** and **First Tee – Upstate South Carolina**
- Connecting youth from indigenous communities to the game through **First Tee – South Dakota**’s direct outreach on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, **First Tee – Tucson**’s partnership with Pasqui Yaqui and Tohono Odham Reservation schools and **First Tee – Four Corners**’ offering of free field trips to youth on the Navajo Reservation
- Access to year-round programming for participants of **First Tee – Greater Wichita** and **First Tee – South Dakota** thanks to the opening of indoor learning centers
- **First Tee – Metropolitan New York** and **First Tee – Greater Baltimore** covering the cost of bus transportation to help participants in urban areas access green grass facilities
- Establishment of an LPGA*USGA Girls Golf chapter at **First Tee – Southern Colorado** and expansion of existing Girls Golf programs offered through **First Tee – Upstate South Carolina** and **First Tee Central Mississippi**, empowering more girls through golf
- Recruiting Spanish-language instructors and volunteers to assist with programming in the predominantly Hispanic communities served by **First Tee – Washington D.C.** and **First Tee – Phoenix**

Below is the full list of chapters awarded funding in 2025:

First Tee – Athens	First Tee – Minnesota
First Tee – Central Carolina	First Tee – Monterey County
First Tee – Central Coast	First Tee – Phoenix
First Tee – Central Mississippi	First Tee – Pine Mountain
First Tee – Colorado Rocky Mountains	First Tee – San Diego

First Tee – Connecticut	First Tee – South Dakota
First Tee – Eastern Michigan	First Tee – Southeast Wisconsin
First Tee – Four Corners	First Tee – Southeastern New Mexico
First Tee – Greater Baltimore	First Tee – Southern Colorado
First Tee – Greater Dallas	First Tee – Triangle
First Tee – Greater Seattle	First Tee – Tri-Valley
First Tee – Greater Trenton	First Tee – Tucson
First Tee – Greater Washington, DC	First Tee – Upstate South Carolina
First Tee – Greater Wichita	First Tee – West Michigan
First Tee – Metropolitan New York	

As part of an organizational commitment to ensure the game continues to thrive for generations to come, the USGA annually invests more than \$10 million into junior golf programs, including First Tee, LPGA-USGA Girls Golf, Drive, Chip & Putt, and the AJGA, as well as the U.S. National Development Program, which serves as a developmental pipeline for the nation's most talented youth.

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<https://mediacenter.usga.org/2025-USGA-First-Tee-IDEA-Grants>