



For Immediate Release

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The First Tee of Tampa Bay's Expansion Includes Two Free Community Programs

Tampa, FL (Jan 9, 2018) – This New Year, [The First Tee of Tampa Bay](#) will reach tens of thousands of more kids through the game of golf. In 2018, The First Tee will implement the National Golf-In-Schools Program in every Hillsborough County public elementary school, reaching 150 schools and 75,000 students.

A program of the [Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA](#), The First Tee of Tampa Bay, is a non-profit youth development organization that provides local children with hands-on, interactive golf experiences. "The First Tee of Tampa Bay is committed to reaching as many children in Hillsborough County as possible," says Executive Director Ian Baxter. "This expansion of the National Golf-In-Schools Program will go a long way toward that goal."

Currently, The First Tee of Tampa Bay is in more than 130 schools reaching 65,000 children during PE classes. Students learn the basic skills of the lifelong sport of golf - putting them on the course to a healthy and active lifestyle.

In addition, The First Tee of Tampa Bay will launch two free community programs this month. Every Monday, starting Jan. 15, "First Tee Mondays" invites community kids of all ages to Rogers Park Golf Course from 4:30 to 6:30pm, where they'll receive free golf instruction. "We want to give junior golfers a place to practice, allow the community to experience the game of golf and expose more people to our program and life skills," says Program Director Mackenzie Mack, LPGA/PGA.

Also, every Friday from 4:30 to 6:30pm, all high school golfers of any skill level can come to Roger's Park for free Players Club practice and games. The program covers golf instruction, golf/life skills and social events/field trips.

These new initiatives wouldn't be possible with the generosity and partnership of Hillsborough County Public Schools, Tampa Sports Authority, The First Tee of Tampa Bay Board of Directors and donors. "We are truly fortunate to have such a strong and committed group of volunteers advocating for the First Tee program here in Tampa and securing the funds to make this program possible," says Tampa YMCA President & CEO Matt Mitchell.

To learn more, go to www.thefirstteetampabay.org or contact 813.813.238.7320 or thefirstteetampabay@tampaymca.org.

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About The First Tee of Tampa Bay

The First Tee of Tampa Bay, an official program of the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA, provides more than 65,000 children each year with hands-on, interactive golf experiences. Through the game of golf, The First Tee of Tampa Bay provides young people educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices. Whether through introductory programs in 130+ Hillsborough County public schools, afterschool programs at several local courses, or week-long

summer camp experiences, The First Tee of Tampa Bay shows children golf is more than a game-it's an opportunity to become the very best they can be. www.thefirstteetampabay.org

About the Tampa Y

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is a cause-driven [4-star charity](#), strengthening Hillsborough and East Pasco communities for 129 years, through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the Association, 18 facilities engage nearly 160,000 men, women and children — regardless of age, income or background — to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve our community's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The Tampa Y has long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. www.tampaymca.org