



**For Immediate Release**

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## **New Tampa Teen Headed for Pebble Beach**

*Terese Romeo from The First Tee of Tampa Bay to Play in 2013 Nature Valley First Tee Open*

**Tampa, Florida (July 17, 2013)** – [The First Tee of Tampa Bay](#), a program of the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA, is sending Terese Romeo to compete in the [2013 Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach](#), an official [Champions Tour](#) event that will be held September 27-29 and televised internationally on the [GOLF CHANNEL](#).

16-year-old Romeo will join 80 other participants from The First Tee chapters for the event, which is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. Romeo was selected by a national panel of judges who evaluated playing ability and comprehension of the life skills and character education learned through their involvement with The First Tee. Almost 150 applications were submitted.

Romeo has been a participant of The First Tee of Tampa Bay for seven years. The teen is a rising junior at Freedom High School, where she helped her golf team win regionals, despite a serious gymnastics injury that forced her to play with just one hand. Romeo was selected to appear on the GOLF CHANNEL to represent The First Tee after persevering through two wrist surgeries in the past year. Romeo has also been named "[Girl Golfer of the Year](#)" by the *Tampa Bay Times*. Off the course, Romeo likes to run and served as co-captain for a Relay for Life of New Tampa team and led a fundraising team for the Hydrocephalus Walk.

Romeo and the other juniors will be teamed with 81 Champions Tour players and 162 amateurs as they compete for the pro-junior title at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Del Monte Golf Course. Play will be conducted on Pebble Beach Golf Links and Del Monte Golf Course on Friday and Saturday, and final round will be played on Pebble Beach on Sunday.

"We are thrilled Terese has been selected to represent The First Tee of Tampa Bay at Pebble Beach," says Jeff Leonard, program director for The First Tee of Tampa Bay. "Terese is a great example of all for which The First Tee stands. All the hard work and perseverance she has shown over the past couple years has been rightly recognized. It is fantastic to see her rewarded with this selection to play in The First Tee's premier event."

"This is such an honor to be selected to play in the Nature Valley First Tee Open with Senior PGA professionals and other The First Tee Juniors from around the world," says Romeo.

The First Tee of Tampa Bay is one of 188 chapters around the country and in select international locations. Serving the Tampa Bay area since 1999, The First Tee of Tampa Bay provides more than 40,000 children and teens each year with hands-on, interactive golf experiences. To learn more about The First Tee of Tampa Bay visit [www.thefirstteetampabay.org](http://www.thefirstteetampabay.org). For more information on the 2013

Nature Valley First Tee Open, visit [www.thefirstteeopen.com](http://www.thefirstteeopen.com). To request an interview or more photos, please contact Lalita Llerena at [Lalita.Llerena@tampaymca.org](mailto:Lalita.Llerena@tampaymca.org) or 813-224-9622 ext. 240.

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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 38,000 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 75+ 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](http://www.thefirstteetampabay.org)

#### **About the Y**

The Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA is one of the area's leading nonprofits, strengthening Hillsborough and East Pasco communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the Association, 19 facilities engage more than 142,000 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](http://www.tampaymca.org)