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## **New Tampa Teen Selected for National Golf Event**

*Inaugural Year of The First Tee Challenge held in conjunction with the Junior Invitational at Sage Valley Golf Club*

**Tampa, FL, (April 18, 2013)** – Terese Romeo, a member of [The First Tee of Tampa Bay](#), a program of the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA, has been selected to play in The First Tee Challenge during the [Junior Invitational](#) at Sage Valley Golf Club in Graniteville, South Carolina April 24 -27. Romeo is one of 32 participants selected from chapters of The First Tee in the East Territory.

The Junior Invitational is a prestigious, invitation-only championship held annually for the top 54 juniors from around the globe, hosted by Sage Valley Golf Club. Joining fellow participants of The First Tee, Romeo will be paired with Junior Invitational competitors and designated sponsors for 18 holes of championship golf one day before the Junior Invitational. In addition, Romeo will serve as a standard bearer during the Invitational; participate in tournament activities and network with the top 54 junior golfers in the world.

Romeo has also been named "[Girl Golfer of the Year](#)" by the *Tampa Bay Times* and [recently appeared on the GOLF CHANNEL during the 24-hour golf network's Morning Drive](#). The teen helped her Freedom High School team win regionals with a gymnastics injury that forced her to play with just one hand. "It was challenging...but it was really worth it because I saw the girls' faces and I saw how excited they were to be able to see me being back on the golf course after two surgeries. It was all worth it to me in the end because of how it impacted them," said Romeo.

"Terese represents herself and The First Tee of Tampa Bay with class and humility and we are proud of what she has accomplished already both on and off the course," said Ian Baxter, executive director of The First Tee of Tampa Bay.

For more information about The First Tee of Tampa Bay, contact Ian Baxter at [ian.baxter@tampaymca.org](mailto:ian.baxter@tampaymca.org) or 813-238-7320. For information about the Junior Invitational at Sage Valley, visit [www.juniorinvitational.com](http://www.juniorinvitational.com).

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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)