



## 2026 Participant Opportunities Eligibility Criteria

Involvement in First Tee provides unique opportunities for teen participants. These opportunities have been created to recognize and reward the commitment participants have made to being a game changer on and off the course, through character development, education, and golf skills. Modifications to eligibility requirements have been made over the past several years to encourage teen retention and progression in the program. We encourage Chapters to ensure the participants applying for these national opportunities reflect the diversity (age, ethnicity, gender, etc.) of the Chapter. **Below you will find the requirements for each of the 2026 Participant Opportunities. To be eligible to apply, an applicant must meet ALL of the requirements specific to that event.**

### First Tee National Championship

**Date: June 22-25; Chapel Hill, NC**

Selection: Up to 48 participants

- Each Chapter may nominate up to **5** participants
- Participants must be between 14 and 18 years old (applicants must reach 14th birthday by the first day of the event and not have reached their 19th birthday by the event's conclusion)
- Classified as a high school freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior as of spring semester 2026
- Since this event has male and female divisions, all participants must select one of these divisions during the application process. For any questions or concerns, please email [support@firsttee.org](mailto:support@firsttee.org)
- Entered in Salesforce and has been an active participant for a minimum of two years
- Applicants will be selected based solely on golf ability (Golf Resume, Junior Golf Rankings, and GHIN Handicap)
- Participants who have previously attended this opportunity are eligible to reapply.
- If selected, participant must be able to travel with parent/guardian to Chapel Hill, NC on June 21 – 26, 2026

### First Tee Game Changers Academy Honoring Joe Louis Barrow, Jr.

**Date: July 18-22; Minneapolis, MN**

Selection: Up to 72 participants

- Each Chapter may nominate up to **3** participants
  - Chapters with 100+ active participants ages 14-18 recorded in Salesforce as of December 31, 2025 may nominate up to **five** participants
- Participants must be between 14 and 18 years old (applicants must reach 14th birthday by the first day of the event date and not have reached their 19th birthday by the event's conclusion)
- Classified as a high school freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior as of spring semester 2026
- Entered in Salesforce and has been an active participant for a minimum of two years
- Participants who previously attended the Game Changers Academy are not eligible to apply
- If selected, the participant must be able to travel to Minneapolis, MN on July 18 – 22, 2026

### First Tee Leadership Summit in partnership with PGA TOUR Superstore

**Dates: (Week 1) August 3-7 or (Week 2) August 10-14; Emigrant, MT**

Selection: 20 participants per week

- Each Chapter may nominate up to **3** participants per programming store for the Leadership Summit
- Participants must be from a First Tee Chapter that is in a PGA TOUR Superstore market
- Participants must have completed the 5-week First Tee Leadership Series in their local Chapter/store
- Participants must be between 14 and 18 years old (applicants must reach 14th birthday by the first day of the event date and not have reached their 19th birthday by the conclusion of the event).
- Classified as a high school freshman, sophomore, junior or senior as of spring semester 2026
- Entered in Salesforce and has been an active participant for a minimum of one year
- Participants who previously attended the Leadership Summit in Montana are not eligible to apply
- Participants who previously attended the Leadership Academy in Atlanta are eligible to apply
- If selected, the participant must be able to travel to Emigrant, MT on August 3-7, 2026 and August 10-14, 2026 (Participant will only attend one week)

### **PURE Insurance Championship**

**Date: September 15–20; Pebble Beach, CA**

Selection: Up to 81 participants

- Each Chapter may nominate up to **five** participants
- Participants must be between 14 and 18 years old (applicants must reach 14th birthday by the first day of the event date and not have reached their 19th birthday by the event's conclusion)
- Classified as an eighth grader, high school freshman, sophomore, or junior as of spring semester 2026 (high school seniors at the time of the application deadline are not eligible to apply)
- Since this event has male and female divisions, all participants must select one of these divisions during the application process. For any questions or concerns, please email [support@firsttee.org](mailto:support@firsttee.org)
- Entered in Salesforce and has been an active participant for a minimum of two years
- Competitive golf ability: *must* have an active USGA GHIN handicap of 6 or better (males) & 8 or better (females)
- Players must be physically and mentally able to play up to 5 rounds in one week, while walking, carrying their own bag, and keeping pace of play according to the PGA TOUR Rules and Competitions guidelines
- Participants who previously attended the event are not eligible to apply
- If selected, participant must be able to travel with parent/guardian to Pebble Beach, CA on Sept. 15 – 20, 2026

### **First Tee Drive Your Future Academy presented by John Deere**

**Date: October 8–12; Ponte Vedra Beach, FL**

Selection: Up to 36 female participants

- Each Chapter may nominate up to **two** participants
  - Chapters with 100+ active participants ages 14–18 recorded in Salesforce as of December 31, 2025 may nominate up to **four** participants
- This event is a female empowerment academy
- Participants must be between 14 and 18 years old (applicants must reach 14<sup>th</sup> birthday by the first day of the event date and not have reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by the event's conclusion)
- Classified as an eighth grader, high school freshman, sophomore, or junior as of spring semester 2026 (high school seniors at the time of the application deadline are not eligible to apply)
- Entered in Salesforce and has been an active participant for a minimum of two years
- Acceptable golf ability: Should be able to shoot approx. 100 for 18 holes
- Participants who previously attended the event are not eligible to apply
- If selected, the participant must be able to travel to Ponte Vedra Beach, FL on October 8 – 12, 2026

### **First Tee Innovators Forum**

**Date: November 15–19; Amelia Island, FL**

Selection: Up to 32 participants

- Each Chapter may nominate up to **two** participants
  - Chapters with 100+ active participants ages 14–18 recorded in Salesforce as of December 31, 2025 may nominate up to **four** participants
- Participants must be between 14 and 18 years old (applicants must reach 14<sup>th</sup> birthday by the first day of the event date and not have reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by the event's conclusion)
- Classified as an eighth grader, high school freshman, sophomore, or junior as of spring semester 2026 (high school seniors at the time of the application deadline are not eligible to apply)
- Entered in Salesforce and has been an active participant for a minimum of two years
- Participants who previously attended the First Tee Innovators Forum are not eligible to apply
- If selected, the participant must be able to travel to Amelia Island, FL on November 15 – 19, 2026