



**First Tee Participant Opportunities**  
**2025 First Tee Game Changers Academy Application**

**Application Deadline:** March 19, 2025

**Overview:**

First Tee Game Changers Academy Honoring Joe Louis Barrow, Jr. is a five-day learning and empowerment academy. Participants selected to attend will participate in important conversations embracing topics of self-awareness, inclusivity, and community building. First Tee invites its partner, RISE, a national leader in the sports community championing social justice, to facilitate engaging and interactive workshops paired with introspective activities and reflections led by our nationally trained First Tee coaches.

The experience is designed to enlighten, inspire, encourage, and position our teens to be Game Changers in their current and future communities. The academy is the ultimate tribute to Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., a fearless champion of change.

**Participant Selection:**

Up to 72 Participants

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Participants must be between 14 and 18 years old (applicants must reach their 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 conclusion of the event).
- Classified as a high school freshman, sophomore, junior or senior as of spring semester 2025
- Entered in Salesforce and has been an active participant for a minimum of two years
- Participants who attended the Game Changers Academy previously are not eligible to apply.
- Each chapter may nominate up to three participants
  - \*\* Chapters with 100+ active participants ages 14-18 recorded in Salesforce as of 12/31/24 may nominate up to five participants \*\*
- If selected, the participant must be able to travel to Minneapolis, MN 7/8-7/12, 2025.

**Application Process:**

Applications will be submitted online at <https://firsttee.smapply.org>; please follow the instructions in the “Quick Start Guide” on how to complete this process. Please contact your chapter representative if you have difficulty with the application process. The online application will consist of the following:

- Application Code
- Participant General Information
- School & Community Activities Chart
- Three (3) Short Answer Essays
- Letter of Recommendation
- Headshot
- Chapter Participation Survey (to be completed by a chapter representative and uploaded by the participant)
- Participant Bio Form
- Social Media, Code of Conduct and Model Release Form
- Release of Liability Form



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**Policy on the Use of AI in Event Applications:**

To maintain fairness and uphold the integrity of the application process, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as text generators or automated writing assistance, is strictly prohibited when completing event applications. Applicants are expected to submit original responses that reflect their own thoughts, experiences, and perspectives. Submissions found to include AI-generated content may be disqualified. We value authenticity and encourage all applicants to share their unique voice and genuine enthusiasm in their applications.

Below is a copy of the application you will need to complete online; please refer to the application below to make sure that you have all of the information you need to complete your application online. Online application must be submitted by the First Tee participant. **Applications submitted by a parent, guardian or Chapter Representative will be automatically disqualified.** First Tee will not accept paper applications, emails, or correspondence from families of participants. The deadline to apply online is March 19, 2025.

**Selection Process:**

Following the closing date of March 19, 2025, a selection committee will review the applications and identify up to 72 participants that will be invited to attend the First Tee Game Changers Academy. These participants will be notified on May 13, 2025.

**Travel & Stipend Information:**

All ground transportation, lodging and meals will be provided for the duration of the program. All participants will be staying at the University of Minnesota. Participants will be sharing a room with one other participant and will be assigned to gender specific floors. First Tee alumni will serve as chaperones and will monitor participants, perform bed checks each night, enforce the curfew, etc.

First Tee will provide each participant who will be flying a stipend of up to \$500 to assist with the cost of airfare. Participants who live within 150 miles of Minneapolis, MN will be required to drive to the event and will not be eligible for a transportation stipend. Stipends will be sent directly to the Chapters following the conclusion of the event.

**Questions:**

Brandon Luna

Director of Events & Alumni

[brandonluna@firsttee.org](mailto:brandonluna@firsttee.org)

904-940-4311



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GENERAL INFORMATION FORM		
Participant Name (First and Last):		
Chapter:		
Participant E-Mail:		Participant Cell #:
Current Home Address:		Home #:
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):		
Does the participant have any allergies (drugs, stings, pollens, etc.)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, please explain:
Does the participant have any dietary restrictions (dairy, gluten, eggs, peanuts, etc.)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, please explain:
School Grade Level: <b>2024-2025</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior		School Grade Level: <b>2025-2026</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior <input type="checkbox"/> College Freshman
High School Grade Point Average <b>(based on a 4.0 scale):</b>	Gender Identity: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary <input type="checkbox"/> The options listed do not reflect me <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to respond	
Ethnic Background: <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or LatinX <input type="checkbox"/> Native American or Native Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to respond		Shirt Size: Men's <input type="checkbox"/> Women's <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Small <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Large <input type="checkbox"/> XXL
Years playing golf:	USGA GHIN # (if none, "N/A"):	USGA Handicap:
Chapter Contact Full Name:		Chapter Contact E-Mail:
Chapter Executive Director:		Executive Director E-mail:



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FAMILY INFORMATION FORM		
Parent/Guardian #1 Full Name:		Parent/Guardian #2 Full Name: (optional)
Parent/Guardian #1 E-Mail:		Parent/Guardian #2 E-Mail:
Parent/Guardian #1 Cell #:		Parent/Guardian #2 Cell #:
Parent/Guardian Permanent, Legal Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Parent/Guardian #1 Employer:		
Parent/Guardian #1 Occupation:		Phone #:
Parent/Guardian #2 Employer:		
Parent/Guardian #2 Occupation:		Phone #:
Parent/Guardian Signature:		Date:
Participant Signature:		Date:
SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUND FORM		
To help us better understand the participants we serve and ensure everyone has access to our events, we kindly ask that all applicants complete the financial information below. If you need assistance filling out this portion, please consult your parent or guardian.		
Please add your family's household income for the 2024 tax year: (Required) <input type="checkbox"/> < 50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,000-100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 100,000-150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 150,000-200,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 200,000-250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> > 250,000		Do you receive financial aid from your Chapter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Number of people in your household: (Example: You, Mom, Dad, Sister, and Brother would total 5 members in your household.) Your parents' household size includes: 1. Yourself; 2. Your Parents/Guardians; 3. Your parents' other children (other than yourself even if they don't live with your parents) who will receive more than half of their financial support from your parents between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. Other people who aren't your parents' children but who live with your parents and receive more than half of their support from your parents and will continue to receive more than half of their support from your parents between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.		



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<b>SCHOOL &amp; COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHART</b>			
<p>Please complete the chart below; more space will be available when completing this section online.  <b>Please only provide activities between 2023-2025. Please include information on your Extracurricular &amp; School Activities, Community &amp; Volunteer Service, Awards &amp; Recognition, Work for Pay.</b></p>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Dates (From – To)</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<i>Example: Golf Club</i>	<i>Jan 2023 - Present</i>	<i>Organized play dates</i>	<i>Club President</i>



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**SHORT ANSWER ESSAYS**

Answer all three (3) of the following questions. Please use the space provided below (more space will be available when completing this section online). Your response must be 300 words or less per question.

1. Describe a time you witnessed or experienced exclusion. How did it affect you, and what could have been done to include everyone?
2. What does it mean to be a game changer, and can you give an example of how you've been a game changer at your chapter, or at school or in the community?
3. Complete the phrase: Dear Coach, you taught me \_\_\_\_\_

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Please attach one letter of recommendation from ONE of the following explaining why you should be selected for a National Participant Opportunity. Please choose from one of the following:

- Adult mentor outside of your First Tee Chapter
- Teacher
- School Administrator

**PARTICIPANT HEADSHOT**

**Please upload your photo. Here are some important tips to follow when submitting a quality headshot:**

- Forward facing image looking at camera
- Image should be from mid-section/shoulders up
- Look for bright lighting with a solid or light-colored background (i.e. Wall inside or outside of your house)
- Photo should not include other people, signs in the background or logos on your clothing other than First Tee
- No Hats
- No Selfies
- Remember to smile



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**2025 Chapter Participation Survey**

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND SIGN:** The following form is to be completed by a chapter coach, program or executive director for each participant applying for a First Tee national opportunity. It is the participant’s responsibility to make sure this is filled out and signed, and then uploaded to their online application. **The same form can be used for multiple opportunities in the same year.**

This form is a vital part of the criteria evaluated for national participant opportunities. Please complete it thoughtfully. You can type directly onto this form or attach a separate typed page with numbered answers.

Participant Name and Chapter:	
1. How many years has this participant been involved with your chapter?	
2. Please provide examples of how your participant has been engaged (with others, as a representative, or as a leader) at your chapter within the past three years.	
3. Please explain why you feel this participant should be selected for a national opportunity.	
4. (Optional) Is there any additional information that you would like to add about this participant that has not been covered by the questions above?	
By signing below, I acknowledge that I am fully aware of and understand that if the participant recommended above does not follow the Code of Conduct at the corresponding participant opportunity and is sent home early, the Chapter will be responsible for any additional airfare fees inquired.	
Name of chapter representative:	
Signature:	
Position at Chapter:	E-mail address:
Date:	Phone Number:



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<b>PARTICIPANT BIO FORM</b>	
<p>The purpose of this form is to gather information and identify story ideas. Please be thoughtful and complete with your answers as these responses will be shared with the media. Note that it will serve for background information purposes only and will NOT be scored by the judging committee.</p>	
1. First & Last Name:	2. Chapter:
3. Please provide the phonetic spelling of your name (Ex: Jordan Speith – Jor din Speeth):	
4. Please provide the name you prefer to be used during the event for media and print use: (Ex: Billy instead of William, please include any II or III or Jr. if you would like that used)	
5. City, State:	6. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):
7. High School Grad Year:	8. School Name:
9. Grade Level 2024-2025:	10. Grade Level 2025-2026:
11. How many years have you been involved with First Tee?	
12. Please estimate your total community service hours in 2024:	
13. Have you committed to playing collegiate golf, and if so which school? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> School Name (If Applicable):	
14. If selected, will this be your first time on an airplane? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
15. Please list your future aspirations and the goals you've set to attain them (150 words)	
16. How were you introduced to golf/First Tee? Please share your approximate age and if there was a particular person or experience that got you interested in golf and/or First Tee. (150 words)	
17. Tell us a fun fact about yourself? (50-word limit)	
18. I certify that my parent/guardian grants First Tee permission to use participant's background information for media opportunities and promotional materials, including age, high school, hometown and information from the application essays.  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I certify that First Tee has permission to use participant's background information. <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not grant First Tee permission to use participant's background information. <input type="checkbox"/> First Tee may only use the information listed below – (please list information)	





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Participant Opportunities Code of Conduct

First Tee takes great pride in the quality of its participants, scholars, host facilities, and community involvement at each and every event or special opportunity. In order to make these events enjoyable for everyone, First Tee requires all participants to adhere to a set of guidelines known as the Participant Opportunities Code of Conduct. Its purpose is to help First Tee participants grow and mature by understanding and accepting the consequences of their actions. Your signature at the bottom of this page indicates that you understand that the Participant Opportunities Code of Conduct is to be followed throughout your stay at this event.

PARTICIPANT OPPORTUNITIES CODE OF CONDUCT:

Attendees of First Tee Participant Opportunities are expected to refrain from the following for the duration of all First Tee events.

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive language, disrespect to staff, host, or volunteers
• Use or association with drugs or alcohol, smoking or chewing tobacco products
• Vandalism of any sort at host dormitory or hotel
• Conduct not becoming of a First Tee participant, such as acting in anger or creating other distractions
• Physical abuse, threat of physical abuse or verbal abuse to other participants, staff or guests
Sexual harassment, abuse, or misconduct
• Not adhering to the lights out policy
• Not adhering to the dress code

DRESS CODE AT THE EVENT (Unless otherwise instructed)

- Hats/visors are acceptable during golf activities and must be worn with the brim forward. Males must remove hat/visor while indoors.
• Collared shirts or mock turtlenecks must be worn and tucked in at all times
• Women's fashion shirts without a collar are acceptable but must have sleeves
• Women's shorts and skirts must be no more than 5" above the knee or the inseam of the shorts must measure at least 5"

Suggested attire for activities will be sent to participants prior to each event. Proper attire is required at all times including meetings and free time. Questionable attire will be reviewed by on-site staff. Should a host facility have a stricter dress code, its policy will take precedence.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION PENALTIES

Participants in violation of this Code as determined solely by First Tee will face consequences including being prohibited from participating in the remainder of the event and may be sent home at the participant's own expense.

Participant Signature

Participant Printed Name

Date



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**Social Media Code of Conduct**

First Tee Social Media Code of Conduct requires participants to demonstrate the First Tee values in their everyday lives and, in particular, to show respect for oneself, others and your surroundings. This is expected not only in face-to-face situations but also in written correspondence and electronic social media interactions. We consider social media to include all personal websites and all forms of online community activities such as online blogs, social networks, message boards, conversation pages, chat rooms, emails and cell phone texting.

The First Tee Social Media Code of Conduct:

- While using any social media platform to communicate with other First Tee alumni or with anyone about First Tee, you must abide by the First Tee Participant Opportunities Code of Conduct
- Also, the First Tee’s copyrighted words, logos and trademarks may not be used in any manner on social media pages without headquarters approval. For example, you cannot create a social media group that appears to be sponsored by First Tee.
- Images and likenesses of First Tee participants may not be used on social media platforms or otherwise without approval from First Tee headquarters. All electronic communications between unrelated adults and First Tee participants who are minors must include a third-party adult.

It is very important to respect and follow the rules set forth when using any social media platform. If you fail to do so, there will be consequences which may include, but are not limited to, cancellation of benefits and being prohibited from participating in future participant events hosted by First Tee HQ. Headquarters will also involve parents and Chapter leaders in these discussions as needed. Thank you for your attention to these guidelines.

Examples of Social Media (but not limited to): Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, SnapChat, Twitter/X, Blogs, YouTube, Email, Texting.

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Participant Signature

Participant Printed Name

Date



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First Tee Model Release
(For use with minors)

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby assign, authorize, give and grant to PGA TOUR First Tee Foundation, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation, and to PGA TOUR, Inc., a Maryland nonprofit corporation, together with its affiliates, successors, assigns, sponsors, licensees and/or sublicensees (collectively, "TFT"), the unrestricted right and permission to copyright, exploit, use, re-use, publish, republish, and/or sublicense all and any photographic portraits and/or pictures, and all and any audio and/or video images or clips (each, an "Image," and collectively, the "Images"), in whole or in part, of the below named minor (the "Model") in which the Model may be included, in whole or in part, whether composite or distorted in character or form, in color or black and white, made through any media now or hereafter known for illustration, art, promotion, advertising, trade, or any other purpose whatsoever at any time, by, or on behalf of TFT, including without limitation the use of any printed matter in conjunction with such Image(s). I acknowledge and agree that TFT may, without prior consent or approval, assign this Model Release (this "Release"), together with its rights hereunder, to any party acquiring all or substantially all of its assets.

I warrant that I am the parent or legal guardian of the Model named below and I have the authority to execute this Release on his or her behalf.

I hereby agree that the terms and conditions of this Release shall also fully apply to me as a model in the event that I appear, in whole or in part, in any of the Images or media related thereto.

I hereby waive and relinquish all and any right to examine, inspect and/or approve the Images, advertising copy and/or printed and/or digital matter that may be used in conjunction with or contain such Images, or to the eventual use that such Images may be applied.

I hereby release, discharge and agree to hold harmless TFT and its agents, consultants, employees, independent contractors and other representatives from and against all any claims, damages, expenses (including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees) and liability (collectively, "Claims") arising out of or relating to the Image(s), including, without limitation, any blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use of such Image(s) in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking of said Image(s) or in any subsequent processing thereof, as well as any publication thereof, including, without limitation, Claims for libel or invasion of privacy.

I have read the above authorization, release and agreement, and I fully understand the contents thereof. This Release shall be binding upon me, the Model and our respective assigns, heirs and legal representatives.

MODEL:

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Release of Liability and Acknowledgement of Risk**

In consideration of my minor child for whom I am the parent/legal guardian ("Child") being permitted to participate in the 2025 Game Changers Academy and associated activities (the "Event"), I, the undersigned parent/legal guardian, in full recognition and appreciation of the dangers and hazards inherent in participating in the Event, do hereby agree to assume all risks and responsibilities, whether known or unknown, surrounding and pertaining to my Child's participation in the Event.

Further, I do for myself, my Child, and my personal representative(s), heirs and assigns, hereby agree to defend, hold harmless, indemnify, release and forever discharge PGA TOUR First Tee Foundation, Inc. ("First Tee"), PGA TOUR, Inc. ("TOUR"), the title sponsor of the Event (if any), the Event facility (the "Facility"), the host organization (if applicable), and their affiliates and subsidiaries as well as each of their respective officers, directors, agents, members, officials, employees (collectively, "Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all claims, demands and actions, or causes of action, on account of damage to personal property or personal injury (including death) which may result from my Child's participation in the Event (including without limitation transportation to or from the Event), whether or not such injury or damage or death was caused by the Indemnified Parties' acts of negligence and whether or not such injury or damage or death occurred at the Event location. I accept full responsibility for the costs of treatment for any injury or damages suffered by myself or my Child relating to my Child's participation in the Event.

Additionally, I do, for myself and my Child acknowledge that COVID-19 is extremely contagious and that despite the measures the Event has implemented to help mitigate the risk of transmission, the elimination of risk of exposure and infection to COVID-19 is not currently possible. Accordingly, I do, for myself and my Child, assume all risk and danger arising out of attendance at and/or participation in the Event, including out of or related to COVID-19.

Also, I give permission for my Child to participate in all activities sponsored by or associated with the Event and to travel in the vehicles provided by Event personnel. I understand that all and any transportation provided in connection with the Event will be provided by adults with a valid driver's license. I further understand that such transportation may be provided by one or more independent, third-party contractor(s) and not by First Tee. I hereby release the Indemnified Parties from all liability for my Child during travel to and from Event activities.

I acknowledge having read this release and agree to be bound by the terms set forth herein. In witness whereof, I have caused this release to be executed as of the date below.

-----  
Parent/Guardian Signature

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Parent/Guardian Printed Name

-----  
Date