

Monthly Divot

October



Makaela at Pebble Beach!

First Tee GVR is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievement of our own Makaela Swanson, who recently had the privilege of competing at the PURE Insurance Championship held at the iconic Pebble Beach Golf Links and Spyglass Hill Golf Club. Makaela teamed up with the esteemed 4-time PGA TOUR Champions winner, Esteban Toledo, for an unforgettable experience.

This incredible opportunity allowed Makaela, along with 79 other talented First Tee participants from across the nation, to partner with PGA TOUR Champions players and take on some of the most breathtaking and renowned golf courses in the world in a best ball format.

Makaela's journey with the First Tee program began at the tender age of 6, and it's nothing short of inspiring to witness her grace the grand stage a decade later. Her dedication and exceptional skills continue to leave a lasting impression on all those fortunate enough to witness her play.

Congratulations to Makaela on her outstanding performance during this extraordinary week!



Volunteers of the year

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to two remarkable individuals, Brandon White and Becky Johnson, for their unwavering dedication in supporting our mission to make a lasting impact on the world of golf.

Becky Johnson stands as an invaluable pillar of support, particularly in her vital role with the Colorado Opens. Her commitment is truly exceptional, as she consistently begins her day at 5 am on tournament days and often extends her tireless efforts until after sunset. Becky's dedication goes beyond the ordinary; she consistently exceeds our expectations with her volunteer work. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication she brings to our cause.

Brandon White, our programming volunteer, embodies a deep passion for sharing the joy of golf with First Tee participants. His engagement and enthusiasm are infectious, creating an environment where young golfers thrive. Brandon's reliability is another shining example of his dedication, as he willingly steps in to assist even when not on the schedule. We can always rely on him to be there when we need him most.

Brandon White and Becky Johnson, we thank you wholeheartedly for your commitment to the First Tee GVR and the Colorado Open. Your consistent willingness to go above and beyond is truly commendable, and it is instrumental in the success of our endeavors.



Programming Wrap-Up

As we wrap up our annual programming, we want to thank all those who participated and contributed to making this year truly exceptional. It has been an outstanding year of growth and impact.

Throughout the year, we had the privilege of teaching golf at seven different schools, conducting 35 sessions for kids ages 4-18 at both Green Valley Ranch and Buffalo Run, hosting four summer camps, and organizing four field trips where students from local schools visited Green Valley Ranch for a memorable day of golf.

Through our efforts, many young minds were introduced to the wonderful world of golf and the core values that lie at the heart of First Tee. This wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and support of everyone involved.

We thank each and every one of you who has played a pivotal role in making another successful year of programming possible. Your contributions have helped shape the future of our community's youth, and we look forward to continuing this journey together in the years to come.



End of the year BBQ

Join us for our end of the year BBQ party!



BBQ



Highlights:

- First Tee participants (Ages 9+) and families are welcome to play!
- Grilling hot dogs and burgers! (Any First Tee participant and family welcome)

END OF THE YEAR

- Range set up with games/activities
- Clubs, clothes, balls, and more to give away

PARTY

Saturday, October 14th
9AM Range Opens
10AM-12PM Play the Par 3
12PM-2PM BBQ
First Tee Learning Center



RSVP to apinkerton@coloradoopen.com

Adopt-a-Spot



ADOPT-A-SPOT



 **first tee**[®]
green valley ranch

*Help keep our community
clean by picking up trash
on the street around the
GVR Par 3 Course and First
Tee Learning Center!*

SAT. OCT 7TH

1-2 PM

**FIRST TEE
LEARNING CENTER**

Please contact Aaron at
APinkerton@ColoradoOpen.com if you are interested!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Anthony Knight

**Cypress Ascendant Services,
Chief Revenue Officer**

Anthony Knight, Chief Revenue Officer at Cypress Ascendant Services, has already made a significant impact as a member of the Board of Trustees. Despite his relatively short tenure so far, Mr. Knight and his company have demonstrated remarkable generosity, contributing \$100,000.

In May of 2021, Mr. Knight co-founded Ascendant National Title, an official title insurer of the PGA Tour and Trustee of the First Tee. Under his leadership, the Ascendant by Blue, a Korn Ferry event held at TPC Colorado, has become one of the most highly attended and prestigious events on the Korn Ferry Tour.

In 2022, Mr. Knight and his team organized a First Tee Junior Clinic at TPC, affording 20 of our participants an unforgettable golf experience. This year, 8 First Tee – GVR families were granted 4-day access to the event, showcasing Mr. Knight's dedication to fostering strong partnerships in the golf world.

Mr. Knight also had the opportunity to participate in the PURE Insurance Championship this past month. As an amateur team, they posted an impressive score of -20, narrowly missing the cut by 2 strokes. It was an enjoyable week spent on the greens at one of the most beautiful courses.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Anthony Knight for his generous contributions during his time on the Board of Trustees. As we look forward to the coming years, we are excited about Mr. Knight's continued hard work and outreach in the world of golf.