**2020 Parent Guide**

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**Welcome!**

Welcome to First Tee of Central Mississippi! We are excited to have you and your child join us in the Life Skills Experience! Below you will find an overview of all the work our chapter does in the community. In the following pages you will also find useful information regarding our policies and procedures. If you have any questions please contact us and we will be happy to assist you!

**First Tee of Central MS Mission:**

To impact the lives of young people in Mississippi by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

* The First Tee works towards this mission by:
	+ Teaching golf and life skills on Golf Courses.
	+ Empowering teachers to deliver First Tee Curriculum in schools and after school programs.
	+ Providing events that grow program participation and enhance the program experience.
	+ Working with other youth organizations to expose kids to the game of golf, and it’s inherent values, in unique settings.
* 2019 Impact
	+ 7,500-youth outreach in schools and events.
	+ 191-participants in golf course programs.
	+ 18 schools actively delivering NSP and/or DRIVE. curriculum in classes.

**Follow us on Social Media to keep up with all of our efforts!**

Facebook: FirstTeeCentralMS

Twitter: TheFirstTeeMS

Instagram: thefirstteecentralms



5 Rules For Success

1. Arrive 15 minutes before your class starts.
2. Sign your child in and out.
3. Make sure your child has sunscreen, bug spray, and goes to the restroom before class.
4. Children must abide by The First Tee Code of Conduct and at all times.
	1. Respect for Self
	2. Respect for Others
	3. Respect for Surroundings
5. Follow us on Social Media! We post all kinds of fun things!



Facebook: FirstTeeCentralMS

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**Class Behavior Policy**

1. **Follow Directions**
2. **Stay in the Safety Zone**
3. **Encourage Each Other**

Participants will be held to the standards above, if there is misbehavior it will be handled in the following way:

1. Verbal Warning
2. 5 Minute Time Out
3. Exclusion from the Rest of that day’s Activities.



All Playing rounds are total strokes until ball is holed out. Players may make a score of 12 or higher twice in a round. The third hole of 12 or higher will result in the player playing a scramble with other players or coach and attempt their certification round at another time. Parents may not give advice or caddie during “certification rounds.” We want to see the participants make decisions based on what they have learned.

Life Skills Experience Certification Guidelines

Starts at Age 7

Recommended Age 9

Recommended Age 11

Recommended Age 13

Ace

1. Be Eagle Certified
2. Complete 4 Ace Projects:
* Play Fifteen 18 hole rounds posted to a licensed USGA Handicap System
* Minimum of Three information interviews with three unique businesses and organizations of potential career interest
* Give Back: Serve as a Volunteer of Junior Coach-Must serve at least 48 hours of service with PLAYer level classes or with other non-profit agencies.
* Explore Educational Opportunities-Schedule and visit at least three universities or trade schools and write a one page paper on your experience for each
1. Minimum 12 months to complete
2. Conduct Self Assessment of Golf Skills
3. Exit Interview

Required Age 14

Eagle

1. Be Birdie Certified
2. Attend 70% of Classes for a Minimum of Four Sessions
3. Demonstrate Core Behaviors at School and Home
4. Complete Eagle Yardage Book
5. Complete 9 Hole Putting Course with 18 or lower
6. Complete 9 Hole Up & Down with 21 or lower
7. Hit 3/6 balls on the green from 100 yards
8. Hit 3/6 balls in the fairway at least 160 yards
9. Complete Ten walking 18 Hole Rounds with Coach with 100 or lower on minimum 5,000 yards
10. Score 80% or higher on written Golf and Life Skill Knowledge Tests
11. Participate in at least 3 First Tee Service Opportunities

Birdie

1. Be Par Certified
2. Attend 70% of Classes Minimum 3 Sessions
3. Demonstrate Core Behaviors at School and Home
4. Complete Birdie Yardage Book
5. Complete 9 Hole Putting 23 or Lower
6. Complete 6 Hole Up & Down 21 or lower
7. Hit 3/6 balls on green from 60 yards
8. Complete Five Walking 9 Hole Rounds with a coach scoring 60 or lower minimum 2,500 yards
9. Score 80% or higher on written Golf and Life Skill Knowledge Tests.
10. Participate in at least 2 First Tee Service Opportunities

Par

1. Be PLAYer Certifited
2. Attend 70% of Classes for a Minimum of Three Sessions
3. Demonstrate Core Behaviors at School and Home
4. Complete Par Yardage Book
5. Complete 9 Hole Putting Course with score of 27 or lower
6. Complete 3 Hole Up & Down Course with score of 12 or lower
7. Complete One Walking 9 Hole Round with Coach with 70 or lower on minimum of 2,000 yards
8. Score 80% or higher on written Golf and Life Skill Knowledge Tests
9. Participation in at least one First Tee Service Event.

PLAYer

1. Attend 70% of classes for Minimum of Three Sessions\*\*
2. Demonstrate Core Behaviors at School and Home
3. Complete PLAYer Yardage book
4. Complete 9 hole putting course with score of 36
5. Complete Walking 3 hole with score of 25 or lower
6. Demonstrate proper handshake with coach
7. Score 80% or higher on written Life and Golf Knowledge Tests

\*\* PLAYers ages 12 and older at the time of participating season only need to complete a minimum of one season if all classes are attended.

**Safety Protocol**

1. Appropriate Golf and/or athletic attire must be worn during classes and events.
2. Staff will address disciplinary matters in a calm, collected manner. Hazing or profanity will not be tolerated in any capacity.
3. Photos may only be taken in public areas by staff and parents.
4. Touching is only permitted if it meets the following guidelines:
	1. Staff and volunteers of The First Tee of Central Mississippi will touch participants in an appropriate and productive manner only
	2. Touching should be in response to the need of the child, not the need of the adult
	3. Touching should avoid breasts, buttocks, and groin
	4. Touching should be open and not secretive.
	5. Participants should only touch other participants with respect, permission, and in a productive manner.
5. Parents must sign children in and out of class.
6. Only designated adults may pick up children. This must be communicated with staff prior to occurrence
7. **NEVER**, under any circumstances, should staff be in a one-on-one situation with a participant including:
	1. Bathroom visits
	2. Social Media communication
	3. Text message or email communication.
8. Water breaks must be provided every half hour.
9. Any golf rounds must be logged. 2 adults must be present and parents must sign child in and out if not accompanying their child.
10. In the event of safety concerns, programs may be moved or canceled. The First Tee of Central Mississippi will communicate any changes via email, text, and social media post.
11. The First Tee of Central Mississippi maintains an open door policy for reporting suspected abuse.
12. Emergency contact information will be kept with the sign in sheet for each class. In the event of an emergency the following actions will be taken.
	1. 9-1-1 will be called if necessary, then emergency contact.
	2. In non life threatening situations, the emergency contact will be contacted.
	3. In both instances an incident response form will be filled out.
	4. Incident report forms are located at all programming sties.

**Safe Sport**

Beginning in 2020, all chapter representatives, including coaches, volunteers, staff, and board members will be subject to new child protection provisions under the Safe Sport Act of 2017. Each chapter representative will now be required to complete a background check bi-annually (every other year) and an annual child protection training through SportsEngine. Below are some general guidelines provided by First Tee HQ:

All First Tee Covered Individuals, including, without limitation, trainers, coaches, instructors, caddies, employees, volunteers, mentors, board members and staff of the Chapter (including full-time and part-time employees, independent contractors, and, if the Chapter operates the facility where programs occur, golf facility staff), are required to comply with the following policies. The following policies are intended to be additive to and supplement the First Tee Chapter Guidelines and Policies.

1. All forms of Misconduct are prohibited.

2. All Covered Individuals must complete First Tee approved background checks. Background checks shall be conducted and considered prior to authorization, approval or appointment of a Covered Individual and repeated once every two (2) years thereafter. The extent of the background checks conducted by First Tee shall be commiserate with the position being considered.

3. All Covered Individuals shall regularly participate in First Tee and chapter approved Misconduct education and training modules.

4. One-On-One Interactions: a) Unrelated adults shall only be permitted in the presence of minors when at least two (2) adults are present. First Tee and its chapters shall take all reasonable precautions /Agmt YHA/Miscellaneous/The First Tee/SafeSport Policy/SafeSport Policy Final.docx to restrict one-on-one contact interactions between minor athletes and unrelated adults. If one-on-one interactions are unavoidable or must occur, such interactions must be in an observable and interruptible distance from another Covered Individual. If unavoidable one-on-one interactions take place in an office or room, the office or room must remain unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office/room that (if available) has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

5. Massage and Rubdowns/Athletic Training Modality: a) No form of massage, rub down, or athletic training modality shall be performed by a Covered Individual or at a First Tee event.

 6. Electronic Communication: a) All electronic communications (e.g., text messages, emails, social network messaging, etc.) between unrelated adults and minor athletes must include a third-party adult.

7. Travel: a) Covered Individuals who are not also acting as a legal guardian, shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must have at least two minor athletes or another adult at all times. b) When only one Covered Individual and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her

**Full Copies of Safe Sport Guidelines and the First Tee of Central Mississippi Risk Management Policy are available upon request.**

**Parent Safety Checklist Summer 2020**

**Due to the current situation regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) First Tee of Central Mississippi has implemented the following safety precautions. This document serves as a checklist for parents to know what will occur at each class. A full copy of our safety protocol will be included in your parent email.**

**Safety Procedures**

* All coaches and participants will be screened upon arrival for the day.
	+ See your parent email for a copy of the health screening checklist
* Anyone who fails the screening will not be allowed to participate in that day’s activities.
* Class sizes are limited to 8 participants to allow for proper social distancing.
* Drop off and pick up will occur via drive up in the parking lot at our programming sites.
	+ See your parent email for your programming site’s specific drop off location.
* A coach will conduct the health screening and temperature check for participants. Once passed, children’s hands will be sanitized and they will be sent to class.
* Social distancing will be maintained at all times during class.
	+ Participants who do not comply with social distancing requirements will be subjected to our normal class behavior policy. -See Below
* Masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer are available at all programming sites.
	+ If you have your own mask and would like to wear it, please bring it!
* There will be NO sharing of equipment. Children who require equipment will be issued sanitized clubs at the start of each class.
* Each participant will have a designated place to put their equipment, water bottle, etc. for each class.

**Tips for Success**

* All participants MUST bring their own clearly labeled water bottle.
	+ We will have water available for emergency purposes.
* If your child has golf clubs, please bring them.
* Plan to arrive at each class earlier than the start time to allow for health screening.
* If you are sick stay home.
* Use the restroom before coming to the course.

**Class Behavior Policy**

1. Verbal Warning
2. 5 Minute Time Out
3. Time Out for the Rest of Class

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**Financial Aid Info Sheet**

* The First Tee of Central Mississippi offers financial aid to participants who qualify.
* Participants who are awarded financial aid are encouraged to participate in our membership program. The cost for this program is $25 annually and it includes and shirt and hat for each participant.
* In order to be awarded financial aid participants must meet the following qualifications:
	+ Families must be experiencing financial hardship.

And/or

* + Participant is receiving free and reduced lunch at school.

**Financial Aid Steps**

**Step 1:** Register your child for your desired class by adding the class to the cart.

**Step 2:** Once you add your child(ren) to the cart, click PROCEED TO CHECK OUT.

**Step 3:** Continue the Event Registration by filling out the participants contact

information and answering the questions.  When you get to the Financial Aid Page, please click that you would like to apply.  Answer the questions and click continue.

**Step 4:**Finish the registration process through the payment page. Once you click submit, your application will be sent for review. **THIS DOES NOT INDICATE THAT REGISTRATION IS COMPLETE**. Upon applying, your application will be reviewed by The First Tee of Central Mississippi staff and a determination will be made.

**Step 5:** Upon determination, you will receive an email with directions to complete your registration.  **You will have 48 hours to complete your registration.**  Failure to complete your registration in 48 hours will result in your registration being cancelled.

**Financial Aid Attendance Policy**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:
*IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, WE REQUIRE THAT ALL Financial Aid PARTICIPANTS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM. YOUR CHILD IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND A MINIMUM OF 50% OF EACH SESSION IN ORDER TO KEEP THEir SCHOLARSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP ACTIVE.*\*OUR ATTENDANCE POLICY IS IN PLACE BECAUSE OF OUR LIMITED CLASS SIZES and resources.\*If attendance drops below 50% Staff will Contact Families to determine future financial aid status.**

**The First Tee of Central Mississippi Program Locations**

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| --- | --- |
| **Golf Course** | **Contact Information** |
| **Deerfield Golf Club** | **Address:** 264 Deerfield Club Dr., Canton, MS 39046**Phone:** (601) 856-6966**Website:** <https://deerfieldgolf.club/> |
| **LeFleur’s Bluff Golf Course** (Closed until Summer 2020)  | **Address:** 1205 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS 39216**Phone:** (601) 364-1783**Website:** <https://www.mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/golf/lefleurs-bluff-golf-course.aspx> |
| **Pete Brown Golf Facility**(Golf Rounds & Events) | **Address:** 3200 W Woodrow Wilson Ave, Jackson, MS 39209**Phone:** (601) 960-1905**Website:** <http://www.jacksonms.gov/facilities/facility/details/Sonny-Guy-Golf-Course-2> |
| **The Refuge Golf Course**(Closed until 2020) | **Address:** 2100 Refuge Blvd, Flowood, MS 39232**Phone:** (601) 664-1414**Fax:** (601) 664-1417**Website:** [refugegolf.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccbreitmoser%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CLX9Y2SER%5Crefugegolf.com)  |
| **Grove Park Golf Course****Bay Pointe Golf Club****(Summer 2019)** | **Address:** 1800 Walter Welch Drive, Jackson, MS 39213**Phone:** (601) 960-1905**Website:** [http://www.jacksonms.gov/facilities/facility/details/Grove-Park-Golf-Course-Nine-Hole-Course-4](http://www.jacksonms.gov/facilities/facility/details/Grove-Park-Golf-Course-Nine-Hole-Course-4%20) Address: 800 Pay Pointe Drive, Brandon, MS 39047Phone: (601) 829-1862Website: [www.baypointegolfclub.com](http://www.baypointegolfclub.com) |
| **Patrick Farms Golf Club** | **Address:** 300 Clubhouse Dr. Pearl, MS 39208**Phone:** (601) 664-0304**Website:** <http://www.randywatkinsgolf.com/golf-courses/patrick-farms> |

**Frequently Asked Questions**

* What is Certification?
	+ Certification is the process for moving from one level of programming to the next. Our coaches and chapter staff work together with First Tee HQ to set these standards. All standards must be met and signed off on by chapter staff before participants can move to the next level. These requirements are posted in this guide on pg. 4.
* Does First Tee provide lessons for adults
	+ At this time we do not, we are exploring parent/child class offerings as our resources expand.
	+ If you are interested in taking lessons yourself, there are many options for private lessons.
* How do I take my child to practice golf?
	+ Take them to a driving range.
		- Call the range to see if they are open
		- Go into the pro shop and purchase range balls
			* Range balls are for use on the driving range only.
		- Practice hitting balls on the driving range! It can be a fun family activity!
		- Many driving ranges also have putting greens and short game practice areas. These are generally free to use, but check in the pro shop first!
		- Some local public access driving ranges are: Pete Brown Golf Facility (formerly Sonny Guy Municipal), LeFleur’s Bluff Golf Course, Nevada Bob’s (indoors), and The Meadow’s Golf and Driving Range (off Highway 49 in Rankin County)
	+ Take them to play 9 holes.
		- Call the course to set up a tee time.
		- Check in at the pro shop 15 minute prior to tee time.
		- Pay any associated fees.
			* If you wish to ride along in a cart with your child, you will be charged a cart fee.
		- Have fun!
* Does First Tee provide individual lessons?
	+ We do not provide individual lessons for children or adults as our resources are extremely limited.
	+ Here are some pros in the area who provide individual lessons:
		- Tony Bishop (Nevada Bob’s)
		- Olly Thompson, Tristan Booker, Billy Allen (Deerfield Golf Club)\*
		- Derek Benson (Patrick Farms Golf Club)\*
		- Thomas Watkins (Whisper Lake Golf Club)\*
		- Brent Belton (Bay Pointe Golf Club)\*
		- Kyle Boetler (Bay Pointe Golf Club) \*
	+ Individual lessons are subject to each professional’s fees and availability. First Tee does not negotiate discounted rates for individual lessons or guarantee instructor availability.

\* Lessons at these locations may be subject to membership at the facility.

* Where should I buy my child golf clubs?
	+ There are several options, including purchasing golf clubs through First Tee. We do offer limited buys once or twice a year.
	+ Here are some other great options:
		- Nevada Bob’s Golf Shop
		- The Pro Shop at your class location\*
		- Dicks Sporting Goods
		- Edwin Watts Golf Shop
	+ We recommend that you buy clubs from someone that knows how to size kids correctly.
	+ If you need help choosing clubs speak with the coach at your program site, or contact us we would be happy to help!

\* Not all class locations sell clubs.