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## **THE FIRST TEE OF WEST VIRGINIA OPENS NEW FACILITY IN WOOD COUNTY**

(Vienna, WV) – The First Tee of West Virginia is growing! Beginning in mid-April, youth ages 5+ will have an opportunity to develop, through golf and character education, life-enhancing values such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship.

“We are extremely excited to be given the opportunity to have our programming available in Wood County” stated Brad Ullman, Executive Director of the West Virginia Golf Association. “Minibel Par 3 Golf Course will act as the host golf course and will be the perfect location for these junior golfers to be introduced to the game. In addition, Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal has been a long-standing partner of the Callaway Junior Tour which was founded in Parkersburg 35 years ago. They are expanding their generosity to now also support The First Tee of West Virginia.”

The Life Skills Experience is one of the unique features that separates The First Tee from all other junior golf programs. It is used to further enhance and instill the inherent values of the game of golf and teach participants how these values transfer into other aspects of their lives. These lessons for life are learned through a variety of golf-related activities. Participants learn about themselves and others through a range of experiences enhancing their golf skills and fundamental values for life. As opportunities on the golf course expand so do the opportunities for the rest of their lives.

“The primary goal is always to have fun” says Ashley Hamilton, Director of The First Tee of West Virginia. “Our programs help young people build confidence, develop respect and appreciate the value of giving back to our community all while learning the lifelong sport of golf.”

Depending on age, participants will enroll into one of two classes. The Little General Juniors class is for 5 & 6 year old participants. The class is broken down into six components which are used to spark curiosity in the game of golf, meet new people and have fun. Sessions are 45 minutes in length and will be held on Saturday from 1pm – 1:45pm.

The PLAYer class is for all new participants of The First Tee who are a minimum of 7 years old. This level introduces the Nine Core Values and helps to establish the foundation for young people to become lifelong PLAYers of the game of golf. Sessions are 90 minutes in length and will meet twice a week, Wednesday from 4:30pm – 6:00pm and Saturday from 2:00pm – 3:30pm.

The first session of programming will begin the week of April 15, 2019 and run through the week of May 20, 2019. All participants are required to pre-register online for class. General information about the organization along with frequently asked questions can be found at [www.thefirstteewestvirginia.org](http://www.thefirstteewestvirginia.org). To register click on the “REGISTER” button in the top-right corner of the homepage; financial aid can be requested during the online registration process.

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**ABOUT THE FIRST TEE OF WEST VIRGINIA:** The First Tee of West Virginia is a state-wide youth development organization operated by the West Virginia Golf Association, focused on introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. On golf courses, in elementary schools and on military installations, The First Tee has helped shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by teaching values like integrity, respect and perseverance. Our mission, supported in part by Smith Land Surveying Inc., Little General Stores and Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal Company is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. Through our programs young people discover how skills essential to success on a golf course can also help them flourish in life.