

First Tee Programs at Longbow Golf Club

Written by Nichole Brophy

The First Tee has a long-standing reputation of instilling the pillars of the game (and of life) in junior golfers worldwide. A new program at Longbow Golf Club will soon help the organization extend its reach.



The First Tee of Phoenix executive director, Hugh Smith, and general manager of Longbow Golf Club, Jay Larscheid, announced that The First Tee of Phoenix will now offer its golf and life skills programming at Longbow Golf Club, the first in the East Valley. In addition to the opportunity for individual enrollment, the program will be available to 30,000 students as part of The First Tee National Schools Program in cooperation with the Mesa Public Schools system's athletic and physical education department.

"We look forward to a great relationship with Longbow Golf Club," said Hugh Smith, Executive Director of The First Tee of Phoenix. "There are just so many things working in our favor at Longbow: great facilities, enthusiastic partner and Mesa School District's participation, to name a few. We're eager to get started."

A celebration to kick off the new partnership will take place on Tuesday, March 30 at Longbow Golf Club. More than 200 Mesa fifth-grade students will take part in the event which will feature junior golf clinics, lessons, trick-shot exposition by Dennis Walters and lunch provided by Jersey Mike's Subs. Mayor of Mesa, Scott Smith, will participate in the festivities as a speaker and participant in a lighthearted "Are You Better Than a Fifth Grader?" golf skills contest. The Mesa Superintendent of Public Schools as well as Mesa City Council Members will also be in attendance.

"From the beginning, junior golf became one of the primary pillars of our operation," said Jay Larscheid, General Manager of Longbow Golf Club. "We're thrilled to partner with one of the most reputable and effective junior golf organizations in the nation."

Multi-level programming will be available year-round with summer programming conducted early mornings, along with weekday and weekend clinics. Fall and winter programming will be modified according to weather and school schedules. Programming is expected to begin April 10th and is open to all youth ages 7-17 at a modest cost of \$50 per year. There will be additional monthly special family events and tournaments available to members of The First Tee of Phoenix throughout the year.

For those interested in attending, the schedule of events is as follows: 8:30-9:00 – Students arrive by bus 9:00-9:15 – Introduce and welcome guests, Mayor and Superintendent's remarks 9:15-9:30 – "Are You Better Than a Fifth Grader?" golf skills competition 9:30-10:00 – Dennis Walters Golf Exhibition 10:00-11:00 – Junior Clinic / Instruction 11:00-11:45 – Lunch, courtesy of Jersey Mike's Subs 11:45 – Students head back to school

To learn more about programming schedules, visit www.thefirstteephoenix.org or call 602.305.7655.