

First Tee of Western NY Taking a Swing in Monroe County – Why it Matters

It's no secret that Western New York, especially Rochester, is engrained with a rich golf history and an abundance of golf fanatics. A craving for golf isn't what makes Monroe County compatible with First Tee of Western NY – it's the need for quality youth development programs that will have a positive, lasting impact on the community's next generation. We teach core values, life lessons, and healthy habits and we teach them through the game of golf. The 2019 Monroe County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report indicates several worsening trends amongst Rochester youth including; feeling unsafe at school, feelings of extreme sadness, and excess engagement with screen time (i.e. television, video games, computers)¹. While these are raw and despairing truths, First Tee of WESTERN NY programs can help make a much-needed impact by positively strengthening the character education and the healthy choices of each young person using golf as the platform.

Expanding our Chapter into Monroe County presents the exciting opportunity to expose in-need students and young people to the inherent life skills and positive choices the game of golf inadvertently teaches. Implementing First Tee National School Program in various Monroe County school districts encourages physical activity and social-emotional learning through golf instruction during physical education classes. Establishing our DRIVE program at a variety of community organizations allows young people who may not have access to be involved with golf the chance to hit a golf ball while learning the importance of perseverance on the golf course and in everyday life. Partnering with the Monroe County Parks Golf Courses – Genesee Valley and Churchville – allows us to teach invaluable life skills and healthy habits on the golf course, but with the intention that participants will be equipped with the tools to transfer those skills to school, home, and other sport settings. While growing the sport and the number of golfers is important for the future of the game, creating even better people is important for the future of the community.



If you are one of those golf fanatics referenced earlier in this post and want to get your child to be involved in golf, take a swing with us by registering for the summer **Life Skills Experience!**



If you are responsible for an after-school program in the Rochester Community contact us to learn about how our **DRIVE Program** is specifically designed for youth-serving organizations giving kids the chance to learn about golf and develop character through fun golf games.



If you know (or are) a teacher or a school administrator interested in teaching life values and healthy habits to your students at a Monroe County school, take a swing with us by adopting our **National School Program!**

If you're an advocate for youth development organizations, love the game of golf, and want to support Rochester youth, take a swing with us by coaching, volunteering or donating!

Contact the Rochester Outreach Coordinator, **Kristen Bromley**, at kbromley@thefirstteeWestern NY.org or (585) 233-6645 for corresponding information. Help us take a swing in Monroe County as we continue to generate good golfers, but even better people.

<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/files/health/DataReports/Monroe%20County%20YRBS%202019%2010.19.pdf>