



The First Tee of Northwest Louisiana 2004 Year in Review

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MISSION

The First Tee of Northwest Louisiana stands dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for youth of the community by making the game of golf and the positive values associated with it, accessible, affordable and enjoyable to all that wish to participate.

NINE CORE VALUES

1. Honesty
2. Integrity
3. Sportsmanship
4. Respect
5. Confidence
6. Responsibility
7. Perseverance
8. Courtesy
9. Judgment

10. *Forgiving

- *a value we added to our local chapter.

Bank One and The Hal Sutton Foundation gave the participants of our chapter an opportunity to participate in the Hal Sutton –David Toms Christus Schumpert Golf Classic at Olde Oakes Golf Course. The children were given three projects to participate in, to qualify for consideration to represent The First Tee of NW Louisiana in this prestigious event. Project One was the Clean Up of the YMCA at Camp Forbing. Project Two was the Clean Up of the Lakeside Golf Course and Community Center and Project Three was a Golf Tournament (Rained Out) at the Shreveport Country Club. Ryan Alford and Charles Criner were chosen to represent our chapter. They were selected because of their , positive attitudes, demeanor, neatness of dress and golf skills, respectfully in that order. The participants of this program participated in a Junior Golf Tournaments every week of their Summer School Vacation. Only Golf Course Ready participants were allowed to represent our chapter in competitions held away from the Lakeside Golf Course.

Three participants of our chapter were chosen to participate in The First Tee Academies, held in Manhattan, Kansas and Richmond, Virginia. The academies are Life Skills oriented and designed to develop leadership skills in our youth. Two of the participants chosen from our chapter live in single parent households. This opportunity and experience would be a dream at best for these children, without the presence of, The First Tee of NW Louisiana in their lives.

The participants of our chapter know that any time they see and/or want to participate in a Junior Golf Competition that the staff is not aware of, they only need to bring it to our attention. We get them access if they are, golf course ready, positive in their approach to others and competition, neat in their appearance and have good grades in school.

Personal Note

Watching these children grow both in life skills and golf abilities has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. We have been a chapter for two years and the change in some of these children is immeasurable.

When I first started with this program, I thought it was the best thing that could happen to a child and especially the children of this community. However, in the two years of stressing how the Nine Core Values of The First Tee will help them live quality lives and improve the way they approach not only the challenges of golf, but life itself, I have found that the lines of demarcation is very blurred now. I really don't believe that the children need me as much as I need them and I know they don't worry about me as much as I worry about them.

The values of this program has changed me and the way I look at life, it is my very sincere Prayer to GOD, to pass it on to every child I come in contact with and I thank HIM for this opportunity to make a difference.

Ivory Salone Jr. (Ike)

