



Golf & Life-Skills Experience

First Tee - West Texas Program Information and Orientation

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

- Attend all classes, report on time, and check-in.
- Wear appropriate clothing, closed toed athletic shoes, neat shirt, shorts, skirts, or pants. Hats/visors must face forward.
- If clothing has belt loops a belt should be worn. Shirts tucked in.
- Bring class materials to all classes – Yardage book, bag-tag (attached to bag), and clubs. Keep yardage book in golf bag.
- Bring a small container (bottle, jug, canister, etc.) of water.
- **Homework assignments should be completed and written down in yardage book where applicable.**
- Observe First Tee Code of Conduct - Respect yourself, Respect Others and Respect your surroundings. Be safe at all times with equipment and while playing golf. Please leave the golf course and other areas better than when you arrived.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

First Tee experience uses the concept of experiential learning and requires each participant and family to invest in the program. Your support in helping this happen is appreciated.

- Please make every effort to arrive shortly before scheduled class time. **Class will begin at the starting time. 6:00 p.m.**
- Make sure your child brings their required materials to each class: golf clubs, yardage book, water.
- **STUDENT CHECK IN EACH WEEK WILL BE AT OR AROUND THE PUTTING GREEN or other specified location.**
- Please make sure that participants are picked up promptly after each class. (Classes may end at any time after 7:00 p.m.)
- Parents are invited to stay and observe the class each week but may not participate in the instruction during the class or interact directly with their children during class sessions. Parent observation areas are generally located a short distance away. We have an approximate **30-yard** parent rule during classes.
- **Attendance is important and we understand that unexpected circumstances can arise. However, we do request that parents contact (text, email, or phone) your Lead Coach (listed below) at least one hour before class if your child is unable to attend.**

PAYMENT POLICIES

We are expecting rapid growth over the next few years and we will not be able to hold spots, unless they have been paid for or on the approved waiting list. If you are applying for Financial Aid the same as above will apply. Program fees are paid using a credit or debit card during registration and through our website at <https://www.firstteewesttexas.org/register/> **Parents must register their child through our website to be properly enrolled in a class. PLAYER & PAR Level \$95 - Birdie Level \$TBD - Eagle & ACE Level \$TBD**

REFUND POLICY

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND UNDERSTAND. If you have registered/paid but desire a refund you must contact us BY PHONE or EMAIL 48 hours in advance of the first class starting to regain a full refund. We do not offer a transfer of payment to be applied to another season/session/program. Our phone number is 432-242-2510 and our email is info@ftwt.org. Additionally, if you requested during registration that we provide a loaner set of golf clubs to your child; we may deduct \$75/set from your requested refund.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

First Tee West Texas has taken steps to make our programs enjoyable and safe for the children/youth who participate in them. We do our best to ensure that our staff members are the kind of role models for children who represent the core values. **All of our coaches, volunteers, and staff have passed a national & state criminal background check. They have also have completed SafeSport Training in compliance with The Protecting Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.**

- We will do our best to teach the curriculum of both Golf and Life Skills in an organized and fun manner.
- We will attempt to get to know every participant involved in the program and provide them with a solid background in the fundamentals of the game of golf.
- We will do our best to model the Core Values of the First Tee and insist that our students do the same.
- We will strive to make the game of golf fun and affordable for your children and include the entire family in as many events as possible.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER - Most classes will take place, rain or shine unless the weather is dangerous for travel. **We request that each parent install the Remind app on their phone - FTWT Nueva Vista – Class Code: ftwtntv; FTWT Ranchland – Class Code: ftranch; FTWT Hogan – Class Code: ftwthogan; FTWT Ratliff Ranch – Class Code: ft-ratliff; FTWT-NV PAR – Class Code: ftnvpar** The Remind app will be our primary way to communicate a weather issue or class cancellation in a timely manner.

GOLF EQUIPMENT OPTIONS

Participants are welcome to bring their own golf equipment. If golf equipment is needed we will provide a set to any participant in First Tee West Texas programs who does not have their own equipment. These loaner sets are taken home by your participant to use for the duration of the session. **If your child discontinues participation for any reason; we require that chapter provided clubs and bags be returned to the golf course or Golf Headquarters Midland. Please leave the bag tag attached. You can also call us at 432-242-2510 to arrange for pickup.** First Tee of West Texas encourages you and your child to visit a local golf course during non-class days so he/she can practice or play golf with approved adult supervision.

Basic Equipment: Player and Par level - 1 metal wood, 2 irons, putter, bag, balls, and tees. **Please Label your Childs golf clubs.**

Birdie 1 and above - full set of clubs to include at least 2 metal woods, 5 irons, wedge, putter, bag, balls, tees.

Clubs may not necessarily be matched sets at the Player and Par levels and could be clubs that we have cut down and lightened for junior use. We've made special arrangements with Golf Headquarters in Midland for you to receive a generous discount on your golf equipment. You'll need to bring your current bag tag to the store to be eligible. Purchases/discounts are only applicable to the registered First Tee West Texas participants. Please call them at 432-686-7367 or visit [Golf Headquarters](#) on the web.

FIRST TEE BAG TAGS

First Tee bag tags will be issued to all Golf & Life Skills participants. Players must show their Bag Tag when accessing playing discounts at area courses and requesting reduced price range balls at the golf course. **Please keep your bag tag on your golf bag at all times.**

Golf Course and Practice Facility Access during classes

1. **Nueva Vista Golf Club** – Putting green / chipping greens, range, and course.
2. **Hogan Park Golf Course** – Putting / chipping greens, range, and course.
3. **Ranchland Hills Golf Club** – Putting green, range, and course.
4. **Ratliff Ranch Golf Links** – Putting green, chipping green, and course.
5. **First Tee - West Texas practice facility - opening summer/fall of 2021**

Golf Course Playing/Practice Access Options – Please call any facility in advance to check availability

1. **Nueva Vista Golf Club** – Green fees are \$5.00 w/ First Tee bag tag. Please check with Pro shop for tee times.
2. **Hogan Park Golf Course** – Green fees are \$4.50*. Must show YOC membership card to receive discount. Rates are good Year Round. (*with annual YOC – Youth on Course membership \$20) Please check with Pro shop for tee times.
3. **Ranchland Hills Golf Club** – At this time only club members can use the facility outside of scheduled program days.
4. **Ratliff Ranch Golf Links** – Green fees are \$7.00. Please check with Pro shop for tee times.

IN ALL CASES ABOVE, DISCOUNTS APPLY ONLY TO ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN A FIRST TEE PROGRAM and YOC AND NOT A L L O W E D F O R ADULTS OR NON-MEMBERS. ALWAYS CALL IN ADVANCE TO CHECK AVAILABILITY AT EACH COURSE. THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE PRIVILEGES AND FIRST TEE CODE OF CONDUCT APPLIES.

Respect Yourself, Respect Others, Respect Your Surroundings. The facility operators have the right to deny access to participants if the Code of Conduct is not observed by participants or parents.

Our program sites are as follows:

Nueva Vista Golf Club - 6101 W. Wadley Ave. – Midland, Texas 79707 – 432-520-0500
Head Pro – Mike Crosser, PGA

Hogan Park Golf Course – 3600 N. Fairgrounds Rd. – Midland, Texas 79705 – 432-685-7360
Head Pro – Greg Sikes, PGA

Ranchland Hills Golf Club – 1600 E. Wadley Ave. – Midland, Texas 79705 – 432-683-2041
Director of Golf – Jeremy Langdale, PGA

Ratliff Ranch Golf Links – 7500 N. Grandview Ave. – Odessa, Texas 79765 – 432-550-8181

FIRST TEE WEST TEXAS Progression Information

PLAYER Level – Beginning Age 7

This PLAYER level class will provide an initial introduction to the Life Skills Lessons and Golf Curriculum at the Player level. The focus at the Player level is the intentional use of the Nine Core Values in both golf and life settings, fundamental instruction as well as becoming familiar and comfortable on the golf course. Students in Player will also play on the golf course* in a class setting 1-2 times. Certification will take place after the 2nd session of attending this level and each student will be required to successfully complete all requirements and document the appropriate rounds of golf as required. Students “graduating” to the next level of the curriculum will receive a certificate and First Tee West Texas golf cap and shirt recognizing their achievement at the end of the season. (*Initially this might only be 1-2 holes in the first session. A 9-hole round played from age/skill appropriate distance is required for certification. This can be performed with a parent/guardian or First Tee coach. There will also be a putting skill assessment and written/oral exam.) **Yardage books must be completed prior to certification day.**

PLAYER+ Level – 9 and Older.

Participants 9 and older may be eligible* to advance to Par after only one session. This class is designed for a participant that is 9 and older to be exposed to our 9 core values and Life-Skills. At the end of 8 weeks of class a participant that has **attended all classes** will have the opportunity to take the PLAYER certification test to become PLAYER certified and advance to the Par level. (*Many times the PLAYER+ participants are not rank beginners and already have some skill for their age.) **Yardage books must be completed prior to certification day.**

PAR Level

Participants will move to **Par** upon successful completion of Player certification requirements. Par will continue to focus on fundamental golf instruction and Life Skills that promote positive attitudes and behaviors both on and off the golf course. **Competition golf will be introduced and offered to participants/parents. PGA Jr. League, NTPGA Jr. Tour, TJGT, others.**

BIRDIE Level

Participants will move to **Birdie** upon successful completion of Par certification requirements. Birdie will focus on the development of critical Life Skills in the area of goal setting and decision-making as well as more intensive golf instruction. **Participation in competition golf is highly encouraged.**

EAGLE Level

Participants will move to **Eagle** upon successful completion of Birdie Certification requirements. Eagle will focus on Life Skills associated with conflict-resolution, decision-making skills, planning for the future and developing Go-To teams. Golf instruction will focus on the development of participant's own golf methods, becoming knowledgeable in all areas of golf as well as the opportunity to serve the chapter as a volunteer. **Should be participating in competitive golf program.**

ACE Level

The **ACE** classes will have opportunities for on-course play and instruction at the practice facility. ACE consists of 4 individual projects to be completed under the supervision of a The First Tee Coach. Age requirement – must be enrolled in high school. **Should be participating in a competitive golf program.**

PGA Jr. League at Nueva Vista. NTPGA Jr. Tour (North Texas PGA) and TJGT (Texas Junior Golf Tour)

Beginner Competitor is a great way for our participants to get more prepared for competitive golf. Must be certified Player Level or above. As a member of First Tee West Texas your **PGA Jr. League** membership and program fee will only be \$137.50 (half price). See Mike Crosser – PGA Head Pro, Nueva Vista Golf Club to sign up for the PGA Jr. League. We also have 10 free (\$90 value) annual memberships available to **NTPGA Jr. Tour** on a first come – first served basis. Any PGA golf professional at our First Tee courses can assist you with the **NTPGA Jr. Tour**. The **Texas Junior Golf Tour** have partnered with First Tee West Texas and offer free memberships (\$199 annual fee waived) and 25% off all tournament entry fees. Please give us a call to discuss your daughter or son's participation in any of these competitive leagues or tours.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FIRST TEE - WEST TEXAS

Office Phone: **432-242-2510**

Email: info@ftwt.org Website: www.firstteewesttexas.org

Head Coach & Program Coordinator: Shelly Martinez – shellym@ftwt.org

Mailing: P.O. Box 53035, Midland, Texas

During Season Hours Monday-Friday 9am-6pm Off Season Hours Monday-Friday 9am – 3pm

Ranchland Hills Golf Club: Jan Lupardus – Lead Coach – 432-638-3711

Nueva Vista GC: Nate Gammage - Lead Coach – 832-623-0770

Hogan Park – Brooke Schlemeyer – Lead Coach – 432-934-1563

Ratliff Rch GL – Layo & Claudia Abalos – Lead Coach – 432-664-8355