OLD WESTBURY, N.Y. – THE NORTHERN TRUST is set to kick off an exciting week at Glen Oaks Club on Long Island, Tuesday, August 22nd.

"We are incredibly thankful for the support of the PGA TOUR and THE NORTHERN TRUST, who have been our most generous sponsors having given more than $2 million to fund our youth development program," said Ed Brockner, Executive Director of TFTMNY. "Our Chapter looks forward to the continuation and growth of this partnership for many years to come."

As the first stop of the FedEx Cup Playoffs, the field will feature the top 125 players on TOUR as Northern Trust kicks off its new title sponsorship. In addition to championship golf, The First Tee has many exciting events planned during the week. These include a junior clinic and Taste of the Tee event on Tuesday featuring TOUR pros in attendance to celebrate junior golf on Long Island.

#HOWNEWYORKDOESGOLF

Many participants from our nearby facility at Eisenhower Park will be inside the ropes as ShotLink and on course volunteers. They highlight our Nassau County program that have been operating for the past fifteen years. Having served well over 10,000 youth since its inception, this year’s NORTHERN TRUST will give our Chapter an opportunity to say thank you to the TOUR, and all of our friends who have made this success possible!
Rudin Family Supports Ladders for Leaders

Summer Intern Program for a Second Year

Lara’e Svendsen, 18, of Bronx, N.Y., spent her summer at Mosholu Golf Course as the Rudin family summer intern as part of the Ladders for Leaders program in conjunction with PENCIL. TFTMNY hosted the summer-long STEM Golf Summer Enrichment Program for youth. This program includes STEM education literacy, instruction, coding, tutoring, golf instruction, field trips and fun activities.

This is the second year the Rudin family has supported this summer intern program in support of our chapter. The Rudin Family Foundation has been a proud supporter of TFT for years. “To be able to combine two really great organizations is very special. We’re thrilled that Ladders for Leaders was able to place Lara’e at TFTMNY, and the impact she is having on the kids in the program is incredible. And for her to be able to have this experience is equally as valuable as she transitions from high school to college,” says Executive Board Member Michael Rudin.

As a tutor Lara’e worked one-on-one with kids in math and reading during one-hour sessions in the afternoons offered through the STEM program in the Lew Rudin Youth Learning Center. “In the beginning I assessed kids in math and reading and went from there,” says Lara’e. “I liked keeping it fun because who really wants to work in the summertime?”

Besides tutoring kids this summer, Lara’e has plenty of other great accomplishments under her belt. She graduated Manhattan Business Academy this past June as her class’s salutatorian after years of hard work and dedication to both her classes and extracurricular activities. “Being the salutatorian was pretty tough. I spent a lot of long nights at school, got involved in a lot of extracurricular activities like National Honor Society, and did a lot of community service.” But Lara’e’s motivation for climbing to the top and achieving great recognition for her achievements didn’t come ordinarily. “At my eighth grade graduation, I think I heard my name announced once,” says Lara’e. “At that moment I told myself I’d be salutatorian for my high school’s graduating class.” And she did just that.

In the fall she’ll be a freshman at Lehman College in the Bronx and hopes to study pre-med and eventually become a doctor. “Being a tutor with the Ladders for Leaders program has allowed me great exposure to working with kids and improving my speaking skills,” says Lara’e.

Samantha Williams: Second Ladders for Leaders Intern Joined STEM Camp this Summer

Samantha Williams, 20, of Bronx, N.Y., joined Lara’e this summer as the second Ladders for Leaders intern.

Like Lara’e, Samantha worked one-on-one with kids who participated in this summer’s STEM program, tutoring them in reading, literature, and math.

Samantha, who will be a junior at Lehman College in the Bronx this fall, is majoring in psychology and minoring in visual arts and hopes to become a school psychologist.
Sisters in Golf and Life: The Opportunity in Golf for Siblings

A sibling is a built-in best friend. For sisters Clair and Grace Lu, this statement encompasses their experiences at The First Tee of Plainfield West Nine.

Grace, 13, and Clair, 10, are sisters and golfers who have been active members at Plainfield for four years. Along with attending classes, Clair and Grace practice together five times a week and play 18 holes once a week. They’re also often seen on the putting green doing drills. “My favorite drill for putting is the tee station. It helps you get aligned so that the putter goes straight,” says Grace.

Along with sharing practice schedules, the sisters play for the Plainfield Junior PGA League, and both of them will be attending the U.S. Kid’s Golf World Championships this year; Grace will be competing in the Teen Worlds and Clair in the girls 10 age group. “Because I’m going to Teen Worlds, my goal is to place in the top 20,” says Grace, who is going into eighth grade. Clair adds that she would also like to do well at the World Championship.

Clair and Grace had plenty to say about the First Tee’s impact on their lives. “I like the fact that you get to meet new people and play with people your age,” says Grace. “It helps me make friends because the program shows you how to interact with (people) and cooperate with them; it teaches you to face challenges.” Their journey to tournaments like the World Championship has brought them closer together and has made their experience playing golf more enjoyable.

Besides their many similarities and shared interests, such as golf and swimming, there are many noticeable differences between the two. Grace is bubbly, talkative, and outgoing, while Clair is more shy. They also differ in academic interests; Clair enjoys reading and writing, while Grace enjoys history. This dynamic between interests makes them a great duo.

As an African proverb says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Clair and Grace have gone through their lives side by side and have been there for each other whenever needed, but they’ve also made sure to leave room for individuality that impresses everyone they meet. This companionship and camaraderie that the Lu sisters share have allowed them to journey far in life, and they have definitely walked a few thousand miles already.

After ACE: One First Tee Alumnus’ Story of Giving Back

Each year, seniors in high school say goodbye to TFT to pursue higher education and careers. However, many alumni of Plainfield, New Jersey, return to the facility over the summer. One such alumnus who is making a difference is Paolo Matti.

Twenty-year-old Paolo, a junior at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, completed the Ace program at Plainfield in his senior year of high school. He fell in love with the game of golf at a young age, participating in his first golf tournament when he was five years old. “I saw (golf) on TV one day and told my dad, ‘I want to play this,’ and I’ve been playing ever since,” Paolo recalls.

He hasn’t been just playing golf, though; he’s been excelling at it. Paolo is on scholarship to play division one golf at Iona, and he was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year his freshman year of college. He uses his golf skills not only to help his golf team but also to give back. This summer is Paolo’s fourth year as a camp counselor at Bill Castner’s PGA Junior Golf at Plainfield West Nine, and in July he coached the Plainfield team at the Northeast Regional Challenge, the same event he participated in four years ago and loved, leading the players to victory.

Paolo’s success goes beyond the golf course, however; along with graduating high school with high honors, Paolo is majoring in biology and hopes to pursue a career in neuroscience. The people that know him are just as impressed with his kindness, humor, and willingness to help wherever it is needed as they are with his scholastic aptitude and golf skills. As Paolo Matti shows, TFT has instilled lifelong values and character in the people that it inspires, and with TFT’s help, Paolo has flourished into a successful and motivated young adult who is known to all as someone who is always giving back.
“It is our hope that our club’s participation in this inaugural Junior Presidents Cup will serve as additional affirmation of the membership’s ongoing commitment to junior golf...playing a small role in helping promote the future of the game. On a more personal level, I am excited by the opportunity to see the best junior golfers from around the world compete on this very special Donald Ross golf course.”

- Ed English, President of Plainfield Country Club

EDISON, N.J. - The PGA TOUR will kick off the 2017 Presidents Cup week with the first ever Junior Presidents Cup September 24th-26th at Plainfield Country Club. The First Tee Program at Plainfield, established in 2009, educates over 300 children each year. Along with golf instruction, the Plainfield facility offers the Path to College program as part of its commitment to the local community.

The Path to College program, which works with children in grades 4-12, prepares them for college, offering college visits, tutoring, financial aid guidance, and assistance in the college application process. All of this happens thanks to the extreme generosity of the Plainfield Country Club Membership.

Next month 24 junior boys, ages 19 and younger, from the U.S. and the world, excluding Europe, will have the opportunity not only to compete against each other in two teams of 12 but also witness their “professional golfing heroes compete at the highest level and represent their home countries...during the Presidents Cup,” according to PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan.

Plainfield Country Club, which will host the U.S. and International Teams, is home to The First Tee of Plainfield. “I think it’s great that the Junior Presidents Cup is coming to Plainfield Country Club, the backyard of TFT of Plainfield,” says Program Director Bill Castner. “It’s wonderful that the PGA TOUR is (creating) another competitive playing opportunity for elite junior players.”

Honorary Captains Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player will lead the two teams, according to the press release, and David Toms and Trevor Immelman will captain the teams. Proceeds from the event will support several charitable programs as well as local chapters of TFT.
A Thriving Partnership between Women, Business & Golf

July 27, 2017 – Building and bettering the lives of youth is First Tee’s purpose, and for the past three years Morgan Stanley has joined our chapter in this mission. The Women’s and Girls’ Golf and Fore Mentoring Program is an exchange in which female associates and executives from Morgan Stanley help girls ages 10 to 19 with their business skills. In turn, the executives try their hand at golf with help from the girls. The program has provided participants with lifelong connections, experienced mentors, and a newfound knowledge of the business world.

Thanks to Valerie Wong Fountain, Executive Committee Board Member of TFTMNY and the Managing Director at Morgan Stanley, who nurtured the relationship between TFTMNY and Morgan Stanley and has been instrumental in creating the program. “I thought a mentoring program incorporating a career day and an on-course experience would be meaningful to both parties,” says Valerie. This idea led to an annual event.

On July 11th TFTMNY girls from our four locations traveled to the Morgan Stanley headquarters in NYC. The girls got the opportunity to sit in on a Q&A session featuring a panel of Morgan Stanley women. They also teamed up with executives to work on resume building.

Later on July 27th both parties met again at Mosholu GC. TFTMNY girls and coaches held clinics to teach the company women about golf, and after the clinic they played a six hole scramble on the golf course. Later that evening Valerie congratulated everyone who had participated and announced that five scholarships would be awarded to deserving TFTMNY participants.

Thanks to this event and the program our girls now have strong connections with businesswomen, completed resumes, and knowledge regarding the business world. “Aspiring young women should figure out what they’re passionate about, set goals, and never give up,” says Valerie.

Goldman Sachs Day of Giving at Mosholu

July 28, 2017 – Members of Goldman Sachs Community Teamworks visited Mosholu Golf Course early one Friday morning in July ready not only to give back to The First Tee community but also to play some golf with participants.

Goldman Sachs CTW (Community Teamworks) repaired various facilities that our chapter uses, including building a new deck, repairing the shed roof, painting the shed, and removing over growth from a program building.

CTW brings “people from (Goldman Sachs) offices (to) work in partnership with local nonprofit organizations on team-based volunteer projects,” according to the official Goldman Sachs website.

After a morning of hard work, CTW members and participants participated in a golf outing and celebrated together later that evening. Trophies were awarded to winners of Closest to the Pin, Closest to the Line, and first place.

Special thanks to all of the Goldman Sachs CTW members who helped improve facilities that will benefit chapter participants here at Mosholu Golf Course!
Tyler Kim Selected to go to Pebble Beach

Tyler Kim, 17, of Manhattan, is headed to Pebble Beach, California, to represent TFTMNY at the 2017 PURE Insurance Championship Impacting The First Tee September 19th-24th.

The event, which will take place at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Poppy Hills Golf Course, will welcome 81 PGA TOUR Champions players, 81 junior golfers of TFT, and 162 amateurs, according to the PURE Insurance Championship official website. “I’m really excited to have been selected for the PURE Insurance Championship. I look forward to the great experience I’m going to have, (being able to meet) new people, and experiencing The First Tee Open,” says Tyler.

Tyler, a rising senior at Hunter College High School, has been a participant of TFTMNY at Mosholu for almost seven years and a volunteer at the facility for five years. He’s captain of the golf team at his school, a member of the Boys Varsity Badminton Team, and one of three bass singers in Chamber Chorus. He’s also on the board of the League Club and the Board Games Club. Coach Anthony Rodriguez will join Tyler at Pebble Beach in September as his chaperone.

Outstanding Participants at TFTMNY

Congratulations to Cameren Dawkins, 16, of Hillside, N.J., and Madhavi Shashank, 15, of Scarsdale, N.Y., on being named our Chapter’s most Outstanding Participants. The Chapter has sent their nominations to the home office with the possibility that they may be selected to attend The First Tee Outstanding Participant Leadership Summit in Orlando, FL, November 8th-11th.

Cameren, a junior at Union Catholic Regional High School and a participant of TFT of Essex County for over five years, has taken part in the Path to College program and is a member of the Interclub Travel Team under TFTMNY, Central Jersey PGA Jr. League and inaugural PGA Jr. Fall League. He attended the Life Skills and Leadership Academy in Michigan this summer and continues to give back as a junior coach and peer mentor. “Cameren is the quintessential young man to represent our organization. He’s a leader and a role model and has a wonderful demeanor on and off the golf course,” says Coach Katie Brenny.

Madhavi, a junior at Scarsdale High School and a participant of TFT at Mosholu, is a member of both the varsity golf and tennis teams at her school. She’s earned the Silver Award in Girl Scouts for building a library and the Gold Award for donating computers to an orphanage in India. This summer she volunteered for the STEM Golf Summer Enrichment Program at Mosholu. “I nominated Madhavi because of her selflessness in giving back to those in need,” says Coach Anthony Rodriguez. “As a TFT volunteer, she brings a tone and approachability factor that’s recognized by everyone in her presence.”

If selected to attend the summit, they’ll spend a week with other selected participants attending workshops on leadership and service. Of those in attendance, eight participants will be awarded college scholarships.
Team’s Shaping Up for the Presidents Cup 2017

As the Presidents Cup quickly approaches with only 38 days and counting, players near the top of the standings are preparing themselves for this coveted event. The list of players in contention for both the U.S. and International Teams includes veterans as well as some who could make their debut in event at Liberty National Golf Club.

After the Dell Technologies Championship, beginning August 30th, the top 10 in the standings will automatically secure their positions in this year’s Presidents Cup, and the two captain’s picks will be added to each team on September 6th.

For the U.S. Team, the top 10 projected players are Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth (Open Champion), Justin Thomas (PGA Champion), Daniel Berger, Brooks Koepka (US Open Champion), Rickie Fowler, Kevin Kisner, Matt Kuchar, Patrick Reed and Charley Hoffman. Of those 10, only four have played in the Presidents Cup before, giving the prospective U.S. Team a large group of first-time players.

The projected players for the International Team include Hideki Matsuyama, Jason Day, Adam Scott, Charl Schwartzel, Louis Oosthuizen, Marc Leishman, Branden Grace, Si Woo Kim, Jhonattan Vegas and Adam Hadwin.

The International Team is looking for its second victory as a team and first since 1998, led by projected member Hideki Matsuyama, who is currently at the top of the FedExCup standings. If projections pan out, the International Team will have more experience than the U.S. Team, as more than half the squad will be veterans but the US has three of the four major champions of 2017.

Since its inception in 1994, the Presidents Cup has seen nine U.S. Team victories, one International Team win and one tie. The U.S. Team has won the last six Presidents Cups against the International Team, including the most recent edition played in Korea in 2015.