



**S C H O L A R S   P R O G R A M  
&   S C H O L A R S H I P   O P P O R T U N I T I E S**

**FALL 2009**

World Golf Village  
425 S. Legacy Trail  
St. Augustine, FL 32092  
904-940-4300 (phone)  
904-940-1556 (fax)  
[www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org)

# SCHOLARS PROGRAM and SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

“ADDRESS YOUR FUTURE”

***To impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf.***

Furthering its mission to impact the lives of young people, The First Tee has identified new avenues for encouraging all-around excellence in those who participate in its program. The First Tee recognizes program participants who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the following areas: academics, leadership skills, character development, and Chapter and community involvement. Each participant meeting specific eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply for the designation of ***The First Tee Scholar***.

The First Tee intends that those young people who receive the designation of Scholar will be acknowledged as some of the brightest and most talented student leaders in The First Tee Network. Accordingly, the process of becoming a Scholar is competitive and prospective candidates will have to meet demanding standards. The First Tee Scholarship Advisory Committee (committee) will evaluate all applicants on the requirements described on the pages that follow.

A student designated as The First Tee Scholar will be eligible to participate in any educational scholarship programs made available by The First Tee and/or one of its partner institutions.

The First Tee is pleased to announce that every Class of 2010 designated Scholar will receive an award of at least \$250! As additional scholarship funds are received, they will be awarded based on donor criteria.

Scholarships from partnering institutions are identified as Leadership Scholarships. Leadership Scholarships are offered by participating colleges and universities in support of The First Tee program for use only at the participating institution. These are NOT full-ride scholarships. The level of support from each school varies.

For additional information, call or send correspondence to:

**The First Tee Scholars Program**  
**Trish Lange**  
**World Golf Village**  
**425 S. Legacy Trail**  
**St. Augustine, FL 32092**  
**(904) 940-4300**  
[www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org)  
[scholarsprogram@thefirsttee.org](mailto:scholarsprogram@thefirsttee.org)

## Who can be designated The First Tee Scholar?

The opportunity to become a Scholar is available only to participants of The First Tee who are seniors in high school, registered and active in the participant database for two years, and who are involved with their local Chapter at the time of application. There is one application period each year which will take place in the fall. Only typed applications received by the deadline will be accepted. **Please visit the web site [www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org) between August 24, 2009, and October 20, 2009, to download the application and required recommendation forms. The postmark deadline for submitting ALL required documents is October 20, 2009.** Applicants will be notified by mail on or before December 15, 2009 as to the status of their application.

*“SCHOLAR” – A First Tee Scholar exhibits leadership and abundant community service, along with academic excellence, while continuing to contribute to their local Chapter of The First Tee through mentoring and/or tutoring opportunities.*

**Applying for The First Tee Scholar Designation:** The First Tee has assembled a Scholarship Advisory Committee (Committee) to select and designate participants as Scholars. The committee will establish and disseminate the criteria students must meet in order to apply for the designation of Scholar.

### Eligibility Requirements

Each applicant **minimally** must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for recognition as a Scholar:

#### Academic

- ❑ Completion of a competitive course of study during high school
- ❑ Minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in core curriculum
- ❑ Minimum score of 425 on each of the three sections of the SAT (Critical Reading, Math and Writing) and/or a minimum of 18 on the ACT
- ❑ Excellent writing skills as evidenced by the quality of the applicant's personal essays
- ❑ A current transcript and a school profile must be provided with the completed application (this can be obtained from a Guidance Counselor)
- ❑ A recommendation from a current high school teacher in a core curriculum subject

#### Character, Leadership, Chapter and Community Participation

- ❑ Evidence of leadership positions held
- ❑ Involvement in Chapter activities, such as mentoring, at the time of application
- ❑ Evidence of responsible citizenship through meaningful involvement in community or civic activities

#### The First Tee Participation

- ❑ Registered and active in The First Tee database at the home office
- ❑ Involved in The First Tee program at time of application
- ❑ Enrollment in The First Tee for at least two years (December 2007 or earlier) prior to application
- ❑ Minimum Life Skills level of Birdie certified in The First Tee
- ❑ Completion of The First Tee Scholars Program Application and submission of all components prior to published deadline

Applications that do not meet the minimum requirements will be returned.

**Benefits:** Each student who is recognized as The First Tee Scholar will receive the following benefits:

- A one-time award of at least \$250!
- A certificate honoring his or her achievement
- Recognition on The First Tee web site and in The First Tee publications
- The opportunity to apply for scholarship awards offered by participating educational institutions on behalf of The First Tee (Leadership Scholarships)
- Opportunities to attend various national events sponsored by the home office of The First Tee
- Public speaking opportunities
- Internship opportunities
- Other opportunities outside of The First Tee

## LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

**Description:** The First Tee Scholars Program has partnered with select colleges and universities around the country to offer merit-based scholarships to those students who exhibit outstanding leadership qualities and abilities in addition to scholastic excellence. These are NOT full-ride scholarships. Details on each school's level of support is available by contacting Trish Lange at [tlange@thefirsttee.org](mailto:tlange@thefirsttee.org) or at (904) 940-4320.

**Institutions participating in The Leadership Scholarship Program:** To date, 20 colleges and universities have agreed to offer Leadership Scholarships to designated Scholars in The First Tee program. Not all scholarships are available every year. **Each school's available scholarships change frequently. Please contact Trish Lange, Senior Coordinator, Scholastic Opportunities at the home office for the most up-to-date information.**

**Information on the individual schools' admission requirements can be found on their web site. Please visit [www.thefirsttee.org/](http://www.thefirsttee.org/) to access the links.**

**Value of the Scholarships:** Combined, the scholarships offered through the Leadership Scholarships are valued at over \$1.9 million. The value of each Leadership Scholarship varies by school and may range from a fixed dollar amount to full tuition, room and board. Some schools provide scholarship awards constituting the difference between the yearly tuition, room & board and fees (direct costs) and the amount received in other forms of financial aid (e.g. government grants and other scholarships) for which the student is able to qualify. These are known as "gap" scholarships. Some schools put a "maximum amount allowed" on gap scholarships. Please contact Trish Lange, Senior Coordinator, Scholastic Opportunities for The First Tee, at (904) 940-4320 or [tlange@thefirsttee.org](mailto:tlange@thefirsttee.org), for more detailed information.

**Receiving a Leadership Scholarship:** All students designated The First Tee Scholar are eligible for Leadership Scholarships offered by partnering institutions. However, all of these scholarships may not be available every year. **Neither The First Tee Scholars Program application nor designation are intended to substitute for, nor bypass, the admissions process of any college or university in the program.** Applicants must satisfy the admissions criteria of any participating school(s) to which admission is sought. Applicants must consult the relevant admissions materials to determine the minimum SAT/ACT scores, GPAs and other requirements of the partnering institutions. The schools' web sites are the best way to receive the most current information. The First Tee web site

has links to all partnering institutions' web sites. The partnering schools will select Leadership Scholarship recipients from among the admitted Scholar applicants. If more than one Scholar is accepted to a participating school and only one scholarship is available, the scholarship is awarded at the sole discretion of the school.

The financial aid offices of the partner institutions will have final authority on the selection of the Leadership Scholarship recipients. Once a student is selected as a Leadership Scholarship recipient, a financial aid officer will thereafter be assigned to work directly with the applicant to help the applicant locate additional sources of aid, such as grants and other scholarships. The financial aid office of the partner institutions will notify the applicant of the scholarship award.

**What is a Named Scholarship** - Named Scholarships are funds received either in honor or memory of someone, or have been donated by individuals or corporations. These scholarships are worth \$2,500 per year and are renewable for four years (\$10,000 total) assuming the student continues to meet the school's criteria for merit scholarships. The funds are paid directly to the institution of the recipient's choice. Named Scholarships are reserved for the top few students in each class of Scholars. The committee awards these funds based both on the criteria for each scholarship, as well as the applicants' individual merits. There is no separate application process. The scholarships are awarded at the same time the Class of Scholars is designated by the committee.

**What is the difference between a Leadership Scholarship and a Named Scholarship?** - The biggest difference between Leadership and Named Scholarships is that named funds are valued at \$10,000 or more over a four year period and can be used at ANY accredited institution in the U.S. Leadership Scholarships are offered only by a specific group of partner institutions and can be applied only to the cost of attending that specific institution.

**Role of the Scholarship Advisory Committee:** The committee will carefully review and assess all of the information submitted in all applications, giving particular consideration to the responses in the personal essay and the letters of recommendation provided. After meeting in early December, The First Tee will notify designated Scholars by December 15, 2009, and the committee will forward the names of all designated Scholars to partner institutions.

***Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for designation. All documents must be postmarked no later than October 20. Scores from standardized tests taken in October 2009 will be accepted until November 15, 2009. If you take either SATs or ACTs in October 2009, you must note this on the application.***

It is the sole responsibility of each applicant to ensure that all documents (application, transcript, recommendations and all supporting information) are sent to the home office on or before the postmark deadline. Applicants will be notified VIA E-MAIL when their completed applications are received at The First Tee home office. Correspondence, transcripts, recommendations and completed applications should be addressed to:

**Trish Lange  
The First Tee Scholars Program  
World Golf Village  
425 S. Legacy Trail  
St. Augustine, FL 32092**