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Future Leaders Forum Helps High School Students Chart Career Dreams
Students shadow golf and leadership experts at PGA TOUR golf event

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (Sept. 22, 2009) – Fifty students from The First Tee Chapters around the world are packing their bags and heading to Walt Disney World Resort on Nov. 12-15 for the third annual *Future Leaders Forum* presented by The Toro Company and Walt Disney World. In partnership between The Toro Company, Walt Disney World Resort and The First Tee, this innovative educational program helps young people strengthen leadership skills, prepare for college, and explore the many career disciplines in and outside the game of golf.

During a three-day forum in the sport, business and science of golf, the participants from The First Tee facilities will receive practical training to become productive leaders in their classrooms, communities and careers. Participants will learn first-hand from industry leaders about career opportunities in tournament operations, golf course management, and hospitality – among others. Presenters include The Disney Institute, the PGA of America, PGA TOUR Operations – along with a behind the scenes look at a professional golf event as they shadow tournament staff at the Children’s Miracle Network Classic. For many individuals, the forum not only provides access to their first professional tournament, but also to some of the world’s most respected golfers and golf industry leaders.

“The Future Leaders Forum is a terrific learning experience for our participants,” said Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., CEO of The First Tee. “It gives them the opportunity to explore various career opportunities within the golf industry and ultimately plan ahead for their future. We are delighted to partner with Toro and Walt Disney World to make this program possible for the third year in a row,” Barrow added.

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“For three years running, this program has impacted the lives of young people,” said Mike Hoffman, chairman and CEO of The Toro Company. “It has opened up possibilities they never knew existed, and connected them with leaders in a variety of industries and professions within and outside of golf. With a strong commitment to growing the game, Toro is truly excited to be a part of this leadership experience and further our relationship with Walt Disney World and The First Tee.”

The participants were selected through an essay competition and application process. Nominees submitted a 200-word essay about their career aspirations and post-high school plans; a listing of involvement in school and community activities; and a letter of recommendation describing the student’s leadership skills. (A complete list of participants is included below.)

“We’re excited to host the Future Leaders Forum at Walt Disney World Resort where dreams really can come true for these talented students,” said Ken Potrock, senior vice president of Disney’s Sports Attractions. “Through this immersive experience, students can apply the values they’ve already learned on the golf course – such as honesty, integrity and sense of fair play – and relate them directly to their careers.”

“As a participant in the 2008 class, it gave me real insight to the multiple career paths that I might pursue for my college degree. The opportunity to see how a real PGA TOUR event operates was also exciting to me because of the many facets involved from sponsorship, television coverage, coordination of the interviews with players and the interworkings of so many staff to pull it off was fascinating,” said Ericka Schneider of The First Tee of Sarasota/Manatee. “The 3-days we spent in Disney were very worthwhile,” she added.

Since 1998, The Toro Company has been a premier corporate partner and preferred supplier of golf course maintenance and irrigation equipment for The First Tee. Toro also is the official provider of turf and irrigation equipment for Walt Disney World Resort.

About The Toro Company

The Toro Company (NYSE: TTC) is a leading worldwide provider of turf and landscape maintenance equipment, and precision irrigation systems. Since 1914, the company has built a tradition of excellence around a number of strong brands to help customers care for golf courses, sports fields, public green spaces, commercial and residential properties, and agricultural fields. Through the Toro Giving Program, Toro is committed to beautifying and preserving outdoor environments, enhancing communities and improving people’s lives. The contributions – monetary, in-kind and volunteerism – are focused on improving communities where our employees live, work and play, as well as strengthening the turf industry. Visit the company Web site at www.thetorocompany.com.

		Illinois University		
Nick	Stratton	Great River	Quincy	IL
Jack	Lewis	Valparaiso	Hobart	IN
Logan	Bertalan	Valparaiso	Valparaiso	IN
Jack	Ezell	Kansas City	Shawnee	KS
Kyle	Howard	Pine Mountain	Harlan	KY
Kaliff	Jones	Owensboro	Hawesville	KY
Timothy	Harris	Greater New Orleans	Harvey	LA
Norman	Blanco	Greater New Orleans	New Orleans	LA
Todd	Sumas, II	Greater New Orleans	New Orleans	LA
Trevor	Bernier	Massachusetts	Taunton	MA
Sydney	Mosko	Three Rivers Park	Plymouth	MN
Hannah	White	the Sandhills	Ellerbe	NC
David	Mills	the Triangle	Raleigh	NC
Tess	Jones	Northern Nevada	Sparks	NV
Chris	Beeman	Corning	Big Flats	NY
Scott	Scholl	Western NY	Cheektowaga	NY
Paul	Toohey	Met NY	Yonkers	NY
William	Blake	Akron	Akron	OH
Jennah	Romansky	Cleveland	Akron	OH
Miranda	Santucci	Pittsburgh	Carnegie	PA
Renee	Cantrell	Sharon	Sharpsville	PA
Ian	Bellah	Philadelphia	Wynnewood	PA
Abshir	Esse	Memphis	Memphis	TN
Jeremy	Lloyd	Chattanooga	Soddy Dasiy	TN
Tezira	Abe	Houston/F.M. Law Park	Angleton	TX
Ryan	Johnson	Dallas	DeSoto	TX
Taylor	Vigil	Fort Worth	Fort Worth	TX
Wesley	Penix	San Antonio	San Antonio	TX
Erica	Bennett	Richmond and Chesterfield	Chester	VA
Matt	Harman	Roanoke Valley	Roanoke	VA
Steve	Sholdra	Greater Seattle	Renton	WA