

The Minnesota PGA Foundation awards nine programs to receive grants for player development through the George Waters Memorial Grant Program. The George Waters Memorial Grant Program was established to help worthy PGA Professionals and other golf related Player Development programs further their goals in player development and creating playing opportunities for youth, military, and diverse populations with an emphasis on inclusion.

The program was developed from the gracious support of PGA Professional George Waters. Waters, owner of George's Driving Range and a PGA Member for more than 50 years, enjoyed teaching the game of golf to all interested. The nine programs selected to receive support in 2017 include:

**Brightwood Hills Afterschool Program—New Brighton, Minn.**

This is an afterschool program based in New Brighton, Minn. for local students ages 7-15 that focuses on the basic fundamentals of golf and exhibiting proper etiquette on the course. The curriculum features a half-hour instructional lesson preceding 9 holes of golf at Brightwood Hills GC. The program welcomes juniors of all skill levels and capabilities and provides the participants with transportation to the facility from the schools.

**Get a Grip Youth Golf Association—Eden Prairie, Minn.**

The "Get a Grip Youth Golf Association" is a community-based, non-profit PGA Junior League golf program in Eden Prairie, Minn. The mission of the program is to help local youth develop basic skills, encourage competition and learn fundamental values of golf in an organized environment. With an emphasis on inclusion, skill levels of participants will range from beginner to intermediate. The program has more than doubled in its existence and expects over 80 juniors in 2017.

**Girls' Golf Clinics—Hennepin and Ramsey County, Forest Lake & Hastings**

These are female-only golf clinics hosted at individual golf courses in the aforementioned geographic areas of Minnesota. These clinics typically include four to five stations that the girls rotate through that include the following skills: full swing, short game, putting, rules and etiquette and discussions about college and opportunities in the industry. Last year, the program had 120 participants and that number is expected to increase to 200 this year.

**Golf Etc. Bismarck U.S. Kids Golf Camps—Bismarck, N.D.**

In 2015, Golf Etc. Bismarck partnered with U.S. Kids Golf to create a kid-friendly learning program. The program features three levels of learning with each one progressively building on the other. Skills and correct forms are taught in putting, chipping and pitching as well as the full swing. Other features of the program include sections on rules and etiquette and a Playing Ability Test. The target ages of the participants are boys and girls ages 4-13 and the program anticipates having over 90 juniors this year.

### **Golf in the Schools—Edina High School**

A program that aims at introducing girls and boys to the game of golf at Edina High School. The program includes 30 students per class, over 400 students total, with six classes each day for three days at Braemar Golf Course teaching the golf swing, ball striking and the short game. The school provides busing to Braemar GC and dome.

### **Golf in the Schools—First Tee South Dakota**

The First Tee of South Dakota was established 10 years ago with over 200 youth, and in the past year, the First Tee impacted the lives of over 18,500 youth. Specifically, this golf in the schools program focuses on self-management education. It aims at teaching basic life skills to girls and boys of diverse ages and social economic backgrounds.

### **Mankato Area Kids Golf-A-Palooza—Mankato, Minn.**

This was a one-day event that accomplished many tasks in relation to growing the game of golf in the Greater Mankato area. In addition to hosting instructional clinics taught by local PGA Professionals, there was an informational session discussing all junior golf programs in the area for 2017 as well as a junior golf club sale and swap.

### **Osgood Veterans Golf Tournament—Fargo, N.D.**

Osgood Veterans Golf Tournament is a free golf event for active and retired military personnel that was created in 2016 with over 56 participating veterans. The facility aims to expand the event to include two shotguns, an instructional clinic, and a luncheon in between shotguns. Next year's tournament expects to host more than 120 veterans and 200 of their family members.

### **Steve Fessler Golf Academy—Otsego & Medina, Minn.**

The academy includes three programs: a middle school golf program with over 130 kids, community program with roughly 75 kids and a Special Olympics golf program with 40 plus kids. A majority of these kids are being introduced to the game of golf for the first time. The programs are designed to energize and encourage players to play more golf.

### **Minnesota PGA**

The [Minnesota PGA](#) consists of PGA Professionals who are experts in the game and business of golf. Our mission is to promote the enjoyment and involvement of the game of golf and to contribute to its growth by providing services to golf professionals, the golf industry, people who play golf or would like to start playing golf. PGA Section Offices oversee the 41 geographic regions throughout the United States and provide the grass-roots network for the nation's 25 million amateur golfers and with the PGA's 27,000 members.