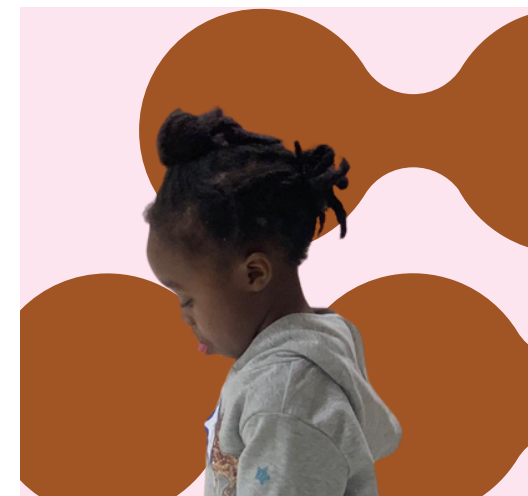
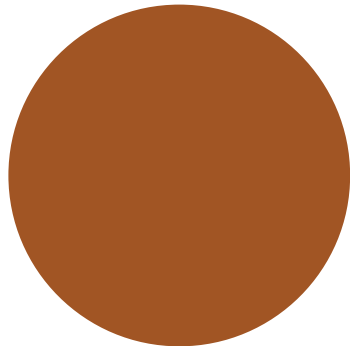
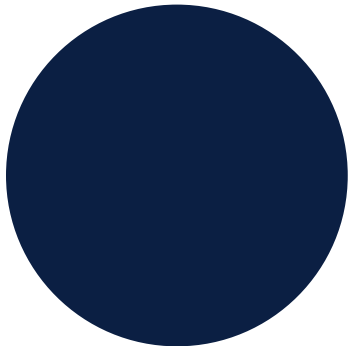
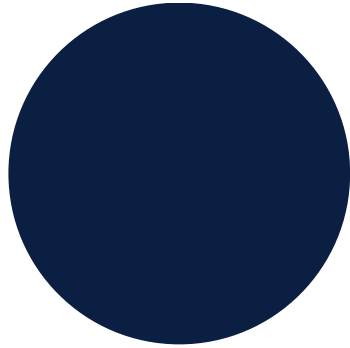
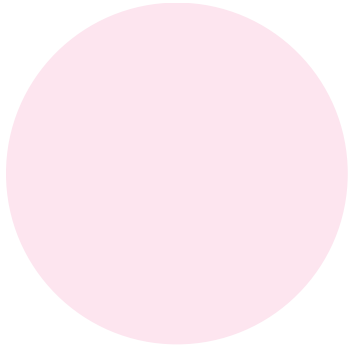
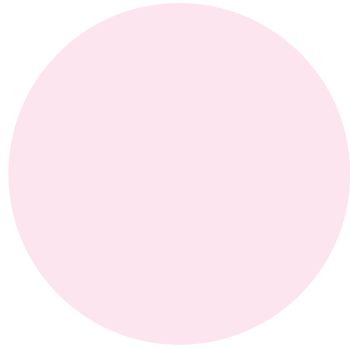
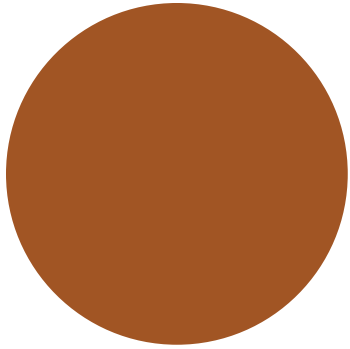




2023 Annual Review





A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends of First Tee – Southern Colorado:

It is time to reflect on another historic year for our chapter and the many ways we have made an impact on the lives of our participants. Our staff has continued to excel and grow our programs, but we know our work has only just begun.

Impact is defined as having a strong effect on someone or something. As you review our 2023 Annual Report, you will see that First Tee – Southern Colorado is doing exactly that; making an impact on the lives of youth in Southern Colorado. Through our impactful programming, we reached more than 5,500 kids and teens in our programs and we were able to provide \$113,875 in financial resources to over 75% of our participants.

Because of your support, 2023 was a year of incredible growth for our chapter and participants. We have been able to enhance and widen many of our already fantastic programs – including continuing our expansion and setting up programming in Fremont County, collaborating with impactful partners through our 21 Community Partnership Locations, and rolling out new technology for our participants and coaches.

First Tee – Southern Colorado believes that golf is a perfect practice ground for learning skills that go far beyond the fairways. At all levels, players have the opportunity to play, learn and appreciate the game of golf and how it relates to life, as they focus on the Key Commitments to becoming a Game Changer: Pursuing Goals, Growing through Challenge, Collaborating with Others, Building Positive Self-Identity, and Using Good Judgement.

As an organization we believe in practicing what we teach and in 2024 we will be Pursuing Goals to further the mission of who we are here to serve. With your help and partnership, in 2024 we will:

- Increase the diversity of our kids and teens involved in programming taking our impact, from 65% to 70% or more.
- Focus on retention of pre-teens and teens within Core Programs, with a retention rate goal of over 50%.
- Increase female percentage of participation rates, from 37% to 45% within all of our First Tee Program offerings.

On behalf of our young people, THANK YOU for supporting First Tee – Southern Colorado and allowing us to continue making a great impact. We are so proud and excited to see the incredible growth and intentional impact we have made.

Sincerely,



Sandy Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

About Us

Our programs happen daily at golf facilities, schools, and through community partners throughout El Paso, Pueblo, Teller and Fremont Counties. Participants ages 3 – 18 progress through the program over time, deepening their understanding of life skills and golf development. The integrated approach helps kids and teens build confidence and resilience for when they are on the course, at home and in school. Every participant has the opportunity to:

- Focus on interpersonal and self-management skills on and off the golf course
- Set goals and put strategies in place to make them a reality
- Learn conflict resolution, resilience and how to plan for the future
- Make healthy choices and use good judgement
- Get out on a golf course to learn the game of golf and how it relates to life

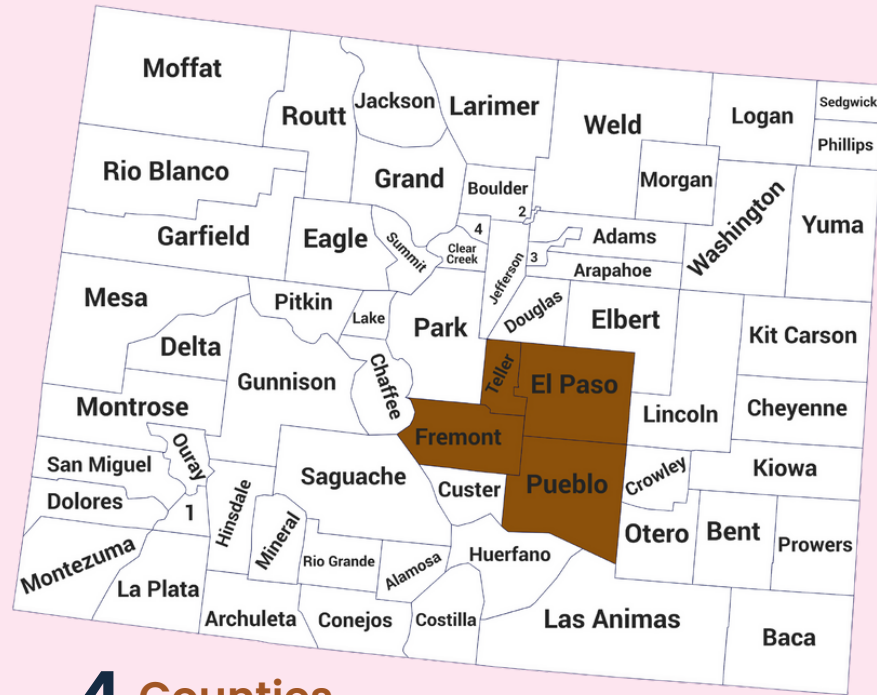


Programs

Our 2023 Impact



5,671
kids and teens



4 Counties



5
program locations



20
outreach programs



21
community partnership locations



65%
ethnically diverse



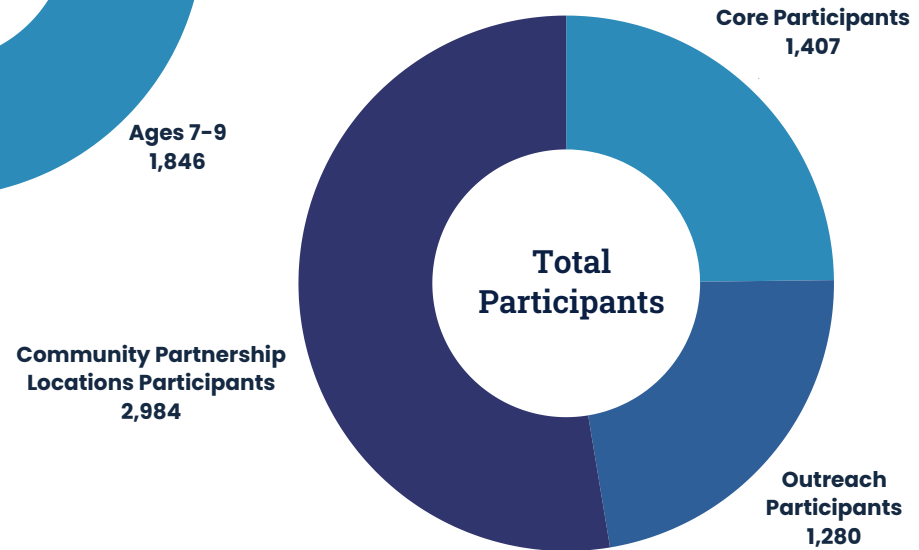
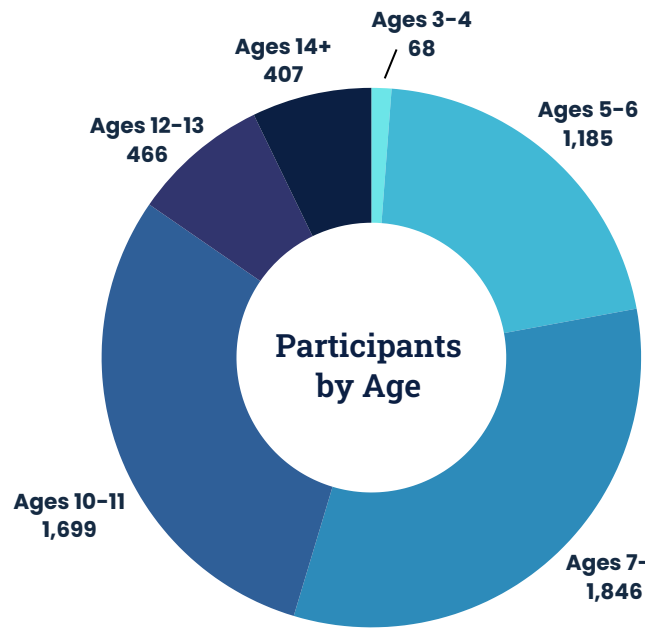
37%
female



\$113,875
financial resources provided
*scholarships and golf equipment

Commitment to Being a Game Changer

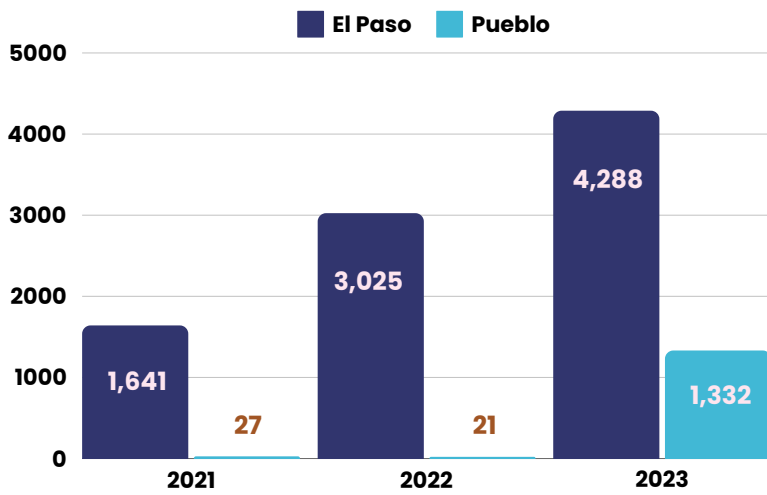
I can change the game and change the world by simply being the best version of myself.
I am a Game Changer.



90%
improved/
maintained
behavior

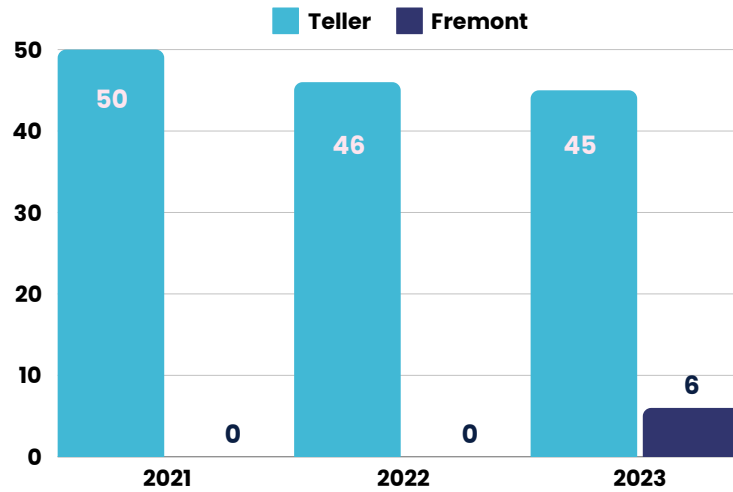
96%
improved/
maintained in
academics

Programs



El Paso and Pueblo Counties have seen great growth in participant numbers over the past three years. 2021 was First Tee – Southern Colorado’s first year in Pueblo County.

Teller County participants have stayed steady over the past three years. 2023 was First Tee – Southern Colorado’s first year in Fremont County and we are excited to watch the program grow there over the next several years.



82%

felt more confident with **social skills**

73%

has higher confidence in **academic ability**



Programs



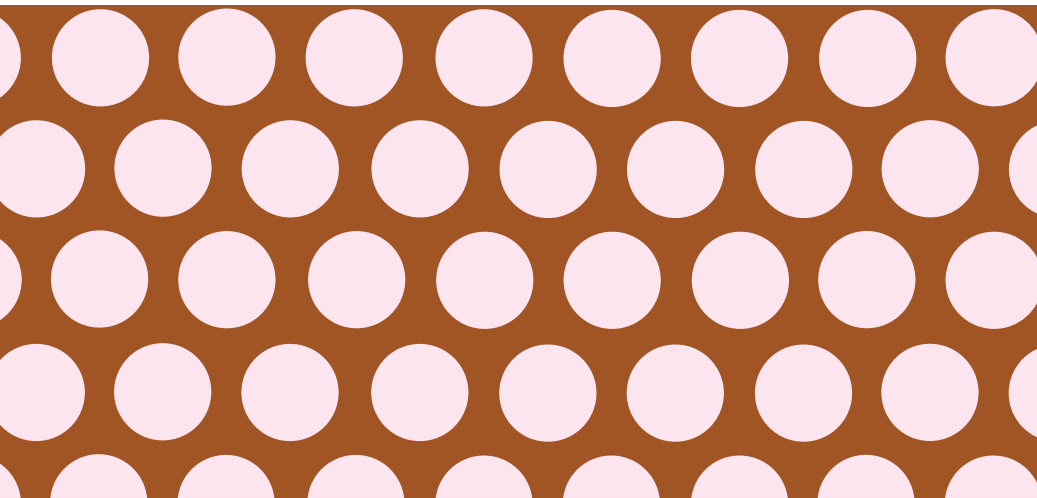
"My child felt more confident in knowing they worked on their golf game in a positive environment."



"Austin has autism, ADHD and anxiety. He's never felt he's belonged to any kind of a group. With First Tee, the participants and coaches have given him their time to help him grow. They've encouraged him to do better, always cheering him on. Outside of his family, he's rarely received this kind of praise ever. Austin had developed a sense of self worth and confidence on the course, which spills over in to his daily life. Austin LOVES participating in First Tee and will remain a member until they kick him out!"



"Both my son and daughter are better golfers because of this program. Not only is there a focus on core values, but technique and confidence is a priority. I have seen transfer from their lessons to their practice on the actual course when we go as a family. I appreciate having this resource in our community"



Our Key Differentiator

Our coaches' ability to develop impactful relationships with our participants is the backbone of our program.

As we continue to grow and impact more kids and teens, we thank our coaches who serve as mentors, seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a character- building life skills curriculum. They create active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do.



65
active coaches and volunteers



4
staff members



We are looking for volunteers and coaches - all experience levels are welcome. At First Tee – Southern Colorado, we help kids discover what's inside of them, guide them to strengthen it and mentor them to put it into action in everything they do.

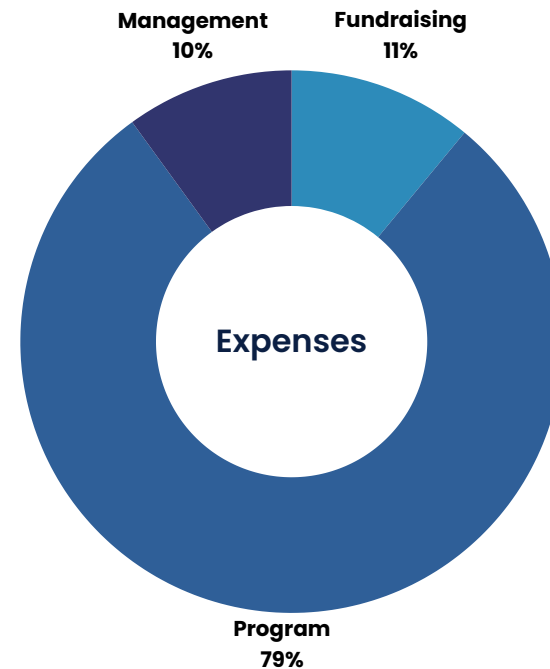
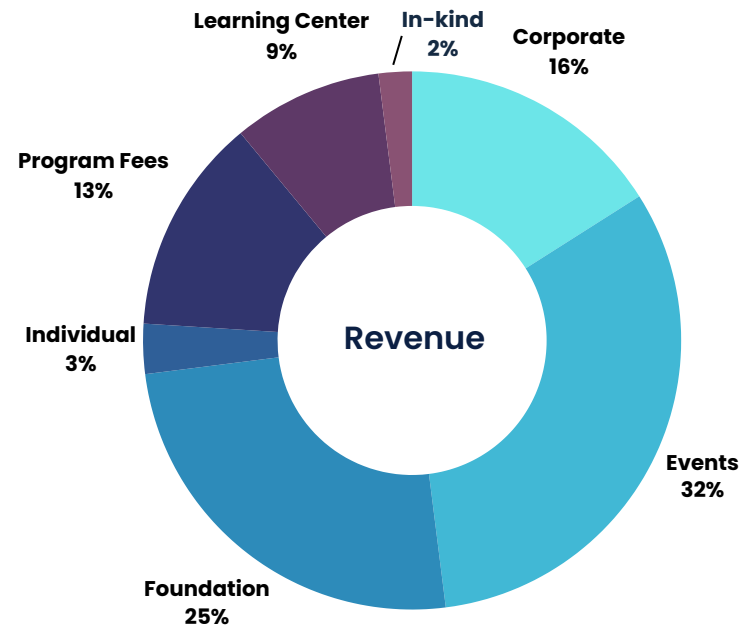
To do this, we need enthusiastic and caring individuals to serve as positive mentors and role models to kids and teens of various backgrounds. Our coaches' ability to develop impactful relationships with our participants is the backbone of our program.

Sign up to volunteer at
firstteesoco.org/coach-volunteer

Financial Stability

Thank you to the individuals, grant funders, corporate partners, and other supporters who continue to support First Tee – Southern Colorado’s mission of empowering youth.

We frame all decisions, strategies, personnel, programs, and community outreach with the single focus on what is best for our participants. Each chapter within the First Tee network is funded locally, 100% of all monetary contributions goes towards funding First Tee – Southern Colorado programs. Every dollar helps ensure that the lives of the kids and teens are positively affected within Southern Colorado.



Events



“Being able to participate in the events outside of programming hours, gives our participants an experience that they will never forget because they get a chance to grow, and it provides them a safe place to fail. They were pushed outside of their comfort zones and were able to rely on all the active learning experiences that we have been teaching them through our character development and leadership curriculum.”

Emily Ortmeier, LPGA, Director of Golf and Education

Our participants had the opportunity to attend First Tee — Southern Colorado events throughout the year to include Birdies & Brews, Legacy Golf Tournament, Legacy Awards Dinner and First Tee Golf Classic.



First Tee – Southern Colorado Board of Directors

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Picture Show Entertainment

Wendel Torres

Reliant Construction

Sandy Johnson

Chief Executive Officer

Emily Ortmeier

Director of Golf and Education

Chris Kosor

Business Development Manager

Nick Dreczka

Program Coordinator

Staff



Mission:

To impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf.

Program Partners



Thank you to our partners who continue to support First Tee — Southern Colorado's mission of empowering youth! With your help we will be able to impact more youth throughout Southern Colorado in 2024.





first teeTM

southern colorado

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firstteesoco.org

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