

THE BALTIMORE CADDIE ACADEMY

The Baltimore Caddie Academy was established in 2015 through partnership between The First Tee of Greater Baltimore, Baltimore Country Club and the Western Golf Association. The vision of the academy is to help young people gain a better understanding of the game of golf, learn valuable life lessons, and help develop youth into leaders on and off the golf course. The academy was established in memory of Joseph Jaxon Fields, a beloved coach and mentor of the students of The First Tee of Greater Baltimore. The Baltimore Caddie Academy is funded through the generosity of Barbara and Joe Fields as well as Michael and Karen Brooks through the Building for God Community Foundation. The academy trains The First Tee students to be caddies at Baltimore Country Club with the goal of seeking the Evans Scholarship through the Western Golf Association. The Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship is a full tuition and housing college scholarship for golf caddies that is renewable for up to four years. Each year, more than 900 deserving caddies across the country attend college on a four-year scholarship from the Evans Scholars Foundation. Selected applicants must have a strong caddie record, excellent grades, outstanding character and demonstrated financial need. The Baltimore Caddie Academy allows the potential for The First Tee students to become recipients of this educational opportunity. The First Tee of Greater Baltimore has 23 students that are represented in the academy. Mr. Bill Bassler, PGA Golf Professional serves as the chapter Caddie Program Coordinator, educating the participants on caddie etiquette. Students have undergone a rigorous training with The First Tee of Greater Baltimore and Baltimore Country Club. After the students successfully completed the academy training program, they began their experience caddying at Baltimore Country Club the second week of June. Charles Blount, a new caddie shares, "The academy has been a lot of fun so far and I have met a lot of new people. Caddying has helped me keep the First Tee values at the top of my mind. Becoming a great caddie means being responsible, courteous, and respectful—these are things that are going to help me in the academy and in life." The First Tee of Greater Baltimore is happy to share that this year, one of our newest caddies, Charles "CJ" Blount, was selected to participate in the 2017 PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Poppy Hills Golf Course September 19-24. The PURE Insurance Championship features 81 Champions Tour players and 81 golfers ages 15-18. We are very proud of CJ and hope that the learnings gained through the Baltimore Caddie Academy will continue to empower our youth on and off the golf course.

Meet the Caddies



Kendel Abrams

Age: 17 years old
School: Senior at Susquehannock
Handicap: 5
Years in The First Tee Program: 7

Charles Blount

Age: 18 years old
School: Junior at Reginald F. Lewis
Handicap: 2
Years in The First Tee Program: 4

Dayon Daughton

Age: 18 years old
School: Graduate
Handicap: 5
Years in The First Tee Program: 5

Jairus Gaines

Age: 17 years old
School: Senior at Gilman
Handicap: 1
Years in The First Tee Program: 6
Eagle Student

Chiara Hollingshead

Age: 17 years old
School: Homeschool
Years in The First Tee Program: 4
Eagle Level

Alex Burnett

Age: 15 years old
School: 9th grade Mount St. Joe
Handicap: 6
Years in The First Tee Program: 6
Eagle Certified

Rhianna Stitt

Age: 15 years old
School: 10th grade Sparrows Point
Handicap: 6
Years in The First Tee Program: 7
Eagle Certified

Brianna Stitt

Age: 15 years old
School: 10th grade Sparrows Point
Handicap: 17
Years in The First Tee Program: 7
Eagle Certified

Lorenzo Sanz

Age: 13 years old
Handicap: 6
School: 8th grade Ridgley Middle
Years in The First Tee Program: 3
Birdie Level

Wayne Thomas

Age: 17 years old
School: 12th grade Catonsville High
Handicap: 15
Years in The First Tee Program: 6
Eagle Certified

Wayne Thomas

Age: 17 years old
School: 12th grade Catonsville High
Handicap: 15
Years in The First Tee Program: 6
Eagle Certified

Olu Kopano

Age: 14 years old
School: 9th grade St. Paul's
Handicap: 13
Years in The First Tee Program: 5
Birdie Certified

TJ Witherspoon

Age: 14 years old
School: 9th grade Calvert Hall
Handicap: 15
Years in The First Tee Program: 5
Birdie Certified

Michael Justice

Age: 14 years old
School: 9th grade Blueford Drew
Jemison
Handicap: 12
Years in The First Tee Program: 4
Birdie Level

Varada Maulkhan

Age: 14 years old
School: 9th Grader at Catonsville
Middle Handicap: 10
Years in The First Tee Program: 5

Aganze Nkere

Age: 17 years old
School: Senior at Loyola Blakefield
Years in The First Tee Program: 4
Birdie Level

Amini Nkere

Age: 15 years old
School: 10th Grade Mt. DeSales
Years in The First Tee Program: 4
Birdie Level

Malachi Walker

Age: 14 years old
School: 8th Grader at Essex Middle School
Handicap: 8
Years in The First Tee Program: 4
Birdie Level

Somone White

Age: 15 years old
School: Sophomore at Carver High School
Years in The First Tee Program: 5
Eagle Level

Mekki Williams

Age: 13 years old
School: 8th grade Mt. Washington Middle
Handicap: 10
Years in The First Tee Program: 5
Birdie Certified

Tyree Price

Age: 16 years old
School: 11th grade Archbishop Curley
Handicap: 20
Years in The First Tee Program: 4
Birdie Level

Bomani Kopano

Age: 16 years old
School: 12th grade St. Paul's
Handicap: 14
Years in The First Tee Program: 6
Eagle Level

Tre Zollicoffer

Age: 15 years old
School: 9th grade Loch Raven High
Handicap: 11
Years in The First Tee Program: 4
Birdie Level