



Santa Maria Teen Selected to Play in Perfect Sense Unified Challenge June 23-27 in Washington, D.C.

Claire Alford, one of 18 First Tee junior golfers to gain championship golf experience in nation's capital

Claire Alford from First Tee of Central Coast was selected to play in the Perfect Sense Unified Challenge in Washington, D.C. June 23-27, gaining a championship golf experience amidst the education and excitement of the nation's capital.

Alford was tapped among 18 teens from First Tee to play in the 36-hole Ryder Cup style tournament at The Club at Creighton Farms, a Jack Nicklaus Signature Course. They also gain a unique opportunity to play with a Special Olympics athlete and a wounded veteran during the event. In addition to the tournament, Alford will expand upon the leadership skills learned in First Tee and will take part in a career exploration day at Perfect Sense Digital offices and a tour of Washington's monuments and museums.

"The First Tee has taught me to not only persevere on the golf course, but also in life, as I strive to be the best person I can possibly be and help give back to others." – Claire Alford

Alford was selected for the Perfect Sense Unified Challenge through a national First Tee application process that scored applicants based on essays, letters of recommendation, and involvement in First Tee and extra-curricular activities.

Alford, 16, is a Sophomore at Righetti High School in Santa Maria, CA. and has been active in The First Tee Central Coast for over five years. She participates and volunteers at our Blacklake First Tee site. Claire is also the Captain of her High School Varsity Golf Team. Claire is the president of The Culture, Community and Cuisine Club at Righetti High School. This is a club that provides health services and community to disadvantaged children in the Central Coast community. Another of Claire's volunteer achievements was revitalizing a community garden in Casmalia, CA and creating a safe and educational place for children to enjoy and learn. Claire was the leader for this project and interacted with local businesses to secure donations to rebuild and redesign the garden.

"Claire gives 100% in everything she does on and off the golf course. She works tirelessly on completing every goal she sets for herself no matter what challenges she comes across. Claire has become a mentor and a leader by example to many of the younger participants; she is the kind of person everyone looks up to and wants to be like. These are traits I have the utmost respect for." – Coach Billy Gibbs, PGA, The First Tee Master Coach.

First Tee is a youth development organization dedicated to helping youth build character through the game of golf. Through in-school and after-school programs, it helps shape young people's lives by reinforcing values like integrity, respect, and perseverance embedded in the game of golf.

About The First Tee Central Coast

First Tee Central Coast(www.tftcc.org) is a nonprofit youth development organization whose mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf. Since its beginning in 2002, First Tee Central Coast has expanded to reach 40,000 young people annually on golf courses, in elementary schools and at other youth-serving locations. First Tee Central Coast is one of 145 First Tee chapters across the United States and select international locations.