



Central Coast Teens Selected for First Tee's National Joe Louis Barrow, Jr. Life Skills & Leadership Academy

96 teens tapped nationally to attend academy in Boise, Idaho July 24-30, 2019

Jacob Zakaria (San Luis Obispo) and Claire Alford (Santa Maria) from First Tee of Central Coast is headed to the Joe Louis Barrow, Jr. Life Skills & Leadership Academy in Boise, Idaho July 24-30. Zakaria and Alford will join more than 90 junior golfers, ages 14-17, from First Tee chapters around the country at the youth leadership event.

Hosted by First Tee headquarters, the academy recognizes and rewards exceptional teen participants who are prepared to build upon leadership skills introduced through programs at First Tee chapters. Top coaches in First Tee's network deliver the golf and leadership instruction that incorporate the First Tee's Nine Core Values in a concentrated, week-long event. Participants build skills preparing them for success beyond the golf course. They will experience championship golf, career exploration, dorm living at Boise State University and meeting other teens from around the country sharing golf as their common bond.

"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

"To me, The First Tee means being kind, courteous and respectful to everyone on and off the golf course" – Jacob Zakaria

Zakaria (15) just finished his freshman year at San Luis Obispo High School and has been active in First Tee of Central Coast for 9 years and Alford, (16) just finished her Sophomore year at Righetti High School in Santa Maria, CA. and has been active in The First Tee Central Coast for over five years.

"Jacob is a wonderful kid. He exemplifies The First Tee in all aspects. I have been coaching Jacob Zakaria since he was 6 years old. Jacob has been a pleasure to have in my program. His contagious smile goes hand-in-hand with his giving personality. He is always there to help and support the other kids. Jacob rocks!" – Coach Terri Benson, PGA.

"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.

For more information, visit www.TheFirstTeeCentralCoast.org. To request an interview with Jacob or Claire contact Jessani Johnson at Jessani.thefirsttee@gmail.com or (805) 637-5042.

About First Tee of Central Coast

First Tee of Central Coast 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 [year], First Tee of 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 of Central Coast is one of 145 First Tee chapters across the United States and select international locations.