



## **The First Tee Expands to Greater Chicago Area Public Schools; Elementary Students in 56 Public Schools to Learn Character-Building Lessons Through Golf**

*Media invited to attend interactive teacher training on Wednesday, December 5 at Chute Middle School*

**Chicago, IL (November 28, 2018)** – The First Tee of Greater Chicago, in partnership with Nicor Gas, a subsidiary of Southern Company Gas, is proud to announce that students in 56 public elementary schools in the Greater Chicago area will receive The First Tee National School Program as part of physical education instruction. The First Tee National School Program introduces students to the game of golf and The First Tee Nine Core Values.

Professional development training will take place on **Wednesday, December 5, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:35 p.m. at Chute Middle School, 1400 Oakton Street, Evanston, IL 60202.** (Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.). At the in-person training, physical education teachers from Evanston/Skokie School District 65 will learn how to deliver The First Tee National School Program within their P.E. program and, specifically, how to integrate The First Tee Nine Core Values with the basic golf instruction. The program will impact the lives of close to 5,000 elementary students each year in District 65 alone.

“We’re grateful to The First Tee National School Program and Nicor Gas for giving us the fantastic opportunity to introduce golf to our elementary school students,” said Julie Stevenson, M.Ed., District 65 P.E. Department Chair. “For many of our students, this will be their first introduction to the game of golf. More importantly though, this provides a great way to reinforce The First Tee’s Nine Core Values that help build character through athletics and a love of fitness.”

In 2011, the parent company of Southern Company Gas, Southern Company, committed to launching The First Tee National School Program at 1,000 schools over five years. In 2017, they committed to increasing that number to more than 1200 schools.

As part of that total commitment, The First Tee will implement the program in 56 public elementary schools in the Greater Chicago area, therein impacting more than 30,000 students through its partnership with Southern Company and Nicor Gas. Nationwide, more than 10,000 schools in 1,500 districts have signed on to deliver The First Tee National School Program.

These Greater Chicago area public schools have implemented The First Tee National School Program in association with Nicor Gas, through an extension of the Southern Company’s long-standing relationship with the PGA TOUR. Southern Company is The First Tee’s Education Patron.

"We are so grateful to Southern Company and Nicor Gas for their tremendous support of the National School Program. We take tremendous pride in the work we do each day, helping our local youth grow and develop. Southern Company's generous investment allows us to positively impact so many more young people and build partnerships within supportive communities," said Adam Murray, Director of Program Development, The First Tee of Greater Chicago.

"Nicor Gas is committed to supporting the communities where we live and serve," said Melvin D. Williams, president of Nicor Gas. "We are excited to partner with The First Tee, as well as the Chicago public school systems in an educational program that helps children build character and instills life-enhancing values that strengthen the communities in which they live."

The Nine Core Values taught through The First Tee National School Program – honesty, judgment, integrity, respect and responsibility – are consistent with the principles that guide employees throughout the Southern Company system. Southern Company's customer-focused business model is guided by *SouthernStyle* – the company's value proposition that includes Unquestionable Trust, Superior Performance and Total Commitment.

#### **About Nicor Gas**

Nicor Gas is one of four natural gas distribution companies of Southern Company Gas, a wholly owned subsidiary of Southern Company (NYSE: SO). Nicor Gas serves more than 2.2 million customers in a service territory that encompasses most of the northern third of Illinois, excluding the city of Chicago. For more information, visit [www.nicorgas.com](http://www.nicorgas.com).

For more information about The First Tee National School Program, visit [www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org).

#### **About The First Tee of Greater Chicago:**

The First Tee of Greater Chicago operates programs at over 20 golf course locations in the greater metropolitan area, and works with over 100 schools, dozens of Parks and Recreation Departments, plus numerous youth service organizations. For more information about The First Tee of Greater Chicago, or to find a location near you, donate, volunteer, or to register a child visit:

[www.thefirstteegreaterchicago.org](http://www.thefirstteegreaterchicago.org)

**About The First Tee:** The First Tee ([www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org)) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit youth development organization whose mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. With its headquarters at World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Fla., The First Tee reaches young people on golf courses, in elementary schools and at other youth-serving locations. Since its inception in 1997, The First Tee has introduced the sport of golf and The First Tee's Nine Core Values to more than 15 million kids, positively impacting their lives along the way. The First Tee offers programs in all 50 states, reaching more than 5 million kids annually through: The National School Program in more than 10,000 elementary schools, 150 chapters at more than 1,200 golf courses and The First Tee DRIVE at 1,300 youth centers. The First Tee currently offers programs at six international locations. The First Tee's Founding Partners are LPGA, the Masters Tournament, PGA of America, PGA TOUR and the USGA. Golf Channel is The First Tee's proud media partner and former President George W. Bush serves as honorary chair.

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