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Contact: Bob Baderian, Executive Director,

First Tee – Greater Pasadena

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r.baderian@att.net

For the second time this summer, two chapters of the First Tee separated by thousands of miles met virtually in the spirit of developing a community.

PASADENA, CA - For one set of members it was September 18th early Friday evening and for the other it was September 19th the start of the weekend. The 16-hour time difference between First Tee – Greater Pasadena and First Tee – Korea has yet to stop their respective members from meeting one another.

In their second meeting, the topic of discussion was “back to school”. Each First Tee member shared their experience with their return to school after summer break and discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected them in the classroom.

Though the majority of these students shared their displeasure with the current distance learning style, these particular young people who call First Tee their home shared how they have implemented the core values that are taught by their coaches and volunteers of the First Tee program.

FTK student Gloria shared how responsibility will be so important for her when she is allowed to return to in-school classrooms.

“I think I should take responsibility for myself because if I don’t follow the rules, I could put my friends and family at risk.”

FTGP student Ali shared how having perseverance has helped him keep going through the obstacles of distance learning which is not his favorite way of learning.

Oliver from FTGP shared how important it is to show courtesy towards others through your actions.

As each member of the First Tee shared their favorite core value to live by, they also shared about their other commonality, their love for the game of golf.

Though they have faced a great deal during the global pandemic, golf has remained a wonderful way to get outside, be active, socialize in a safe setting, and work toward accomplishing goals. A curiosity then ensued when members of both chapters asked if golf was any different in Korea than that of the US. They all soon learned that golf remains the constant. A global sport that anyone can learn.

The two chapters are just beginning this new relationship of being official sister chapters, the first of its kind in the First Tee program. Like any long-distance relationship, communication is key. Keep on the lookout for special social media posts exchanged between the two chapters in the near future. Follow us on Instagram: @firstteegreaterpasadena and @firstteekorea.

About the First Tee - Korea

The First Tee – Korea was established in 2016, a year after the Presidents Cup was hosted in South Korea at the Jack Nicklaus Club. Since their inception, the chapter has served more than 800 youth between the ages of 7-11 at teaching locations across South Korea. These locations include the Jack Nicklaus Club in Incheon, the KWS Academy in Ansan, The Lakes at Osan, which lies on a US Air Base, and various elementary schools in Seoul. For many Korean youth, golf course access is limited which is a need that the First Tee – Korea fulfills. Their mission is to positively impact the lives of Korean kids by providing the First Tee program that builds character, instills life-enhancing values, and promotes healthy choices through the game of golf. To learn more about the First Tee - Korea, visit: <https://www.thefirstteekorea.org> You can also follow them on Instagram: @firstteekorea

About the First Tee – Greater Pasadena

First Tee – Greater Pasadena operates from the Brookside Golf Club, a 36-hole municipal golf facility located adjacent to the world-famous Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The First Tee – Greater Pasadena was founded in 2006 and has served more than 211,000 youth in the San Gabriel Valley/greater Pasadena area since that time. In 2019 alone, the chapter served more than 43,000 youth through a variety of programming including the Life-Skills Education program

which is designed around teaching young people the game of golf, as well as helping them understand and ultimately develop The First Tee Nine Core Values: honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgment. In addition to programming that is offered at Brookside Golf Club, the chapter has nine other programming locations that reach across the vast region in cities like Alhambra, La Verne, South Pasadena and Diamond Bar. To learn more about the First Tee – Greater Pasadena, visit: <https://www.firstteegreaterpasadena.org>. You can also follow them on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram @firstgreaterpasadena