

2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email *

jabbergolf@aol.com

Name of Nominee: *

Dean Marks

Award Nominated for: *

Youth Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

Milham Park Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1997

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Junior Golf in Kalamazoo is thriving, and I feel I have played an important role in the success of Junior Golf in the Kalamazoo area through my participation in many different programs. I believe in leading by example more than dictating and I think over the years, parents and players have come to appreciate my approach.

In addition to being the Director of Golf for the 3 Kalamazoo City owned golf courses, I am also Director of the Kalamazoo Junior Golf Association, a position I've held since 2005. I am solely responsible for creating the schedule of events at local golf courses. I schedule 27 tournaments at 21 different courses in the area and I believe my ability to do this is directly related to my organizational skills and relationships with area pros at host courses. The program has 3 age groups - 12U, 13-15, 16-18, and costs only \$70 to play 5 events, \$5 for each additional event.

I have overseen the KJGA Instructional classes since 2005, which average over 200 participants per year. I regularly get 12-15 volunteers to help at these classes and ages 3-15 can learn golf for only \$70 for a 6-week class. In spring of 2021, we became a satellite location for First Tee West Michigan and were able to increase our reach to over 400 youth.

15 years ago, I expanded our KJGA Scholarship program to offer four \$1500 scholarships to graduating seniors who have participated in the KJGA programs and plan to attend a 4-year college. We have now awarded 95 scholarships totaling \$136,000 since 1997.

Finally, I am captain for our PGA Jr League program which had 117 participants in 2020, the 17th largest program in the nation. We continued the success with 110 participants in 2021 and 115 in 2022. I was selected to host a PGA Jr League Regional event in 2022.

Every participant in my programs receives a free membership to play our par 3 Red Arrow Golf Course located in downtown Kalamazoo.

Thank you for taking the time to read about some of my highlights.

- PGA Certified Professional in Instruction 2009
- Michigan PGA Junior Golf Leader award 2007, 2012
- Michigan PGA Player Development award 2017
- TPI Certified Level 2 Junior Coach 2010
- US Kids Golf Top 50 Kids Teacher 2008, 2009, 2010
- US Kids Golf Master Kids Teacher 2011
- US Kids Golf Certified Coach 2012
- US Kids Golf Certified Coach Level 2 2018
- Kalamazoo College Women's Golf Coach 2003-2020
- First Tee Level 1 Coach 2016
- USGA Rules of Golf Advanced Certification 2019

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