

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 *

rbryant@thousandoaksgc.com

Name of Nominee: *

Raquel Bryant

Award Nominated for: *

Youth Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

Thousand Oaks Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2009

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

Thank you for considering me for this award. It is truly an honor to be nominated! I have been at Thousand Oaks Golf Club since 2009, where we live, breathe, and love Junior Golf! It would not be possible to run the junior programming we did this year without Justin Rube, Brian Kotowicz, and Kelly Plaisier. Thank you to them!

Youth Group Programs:

- FUNdamental's Edge- 135 Juniors (47% girls), 6 one-hour clinics per session, 2 age groups, offered in June, July, August, and September-October.
- PGA Junior League- 28 juniors (2 teams, 42% girls) 5 practices for each team, 5 matches. Brian Kotowicz and I each coach one team. Team Bryant was the League Champion this year.
- Competitive Edge Girls' Pod Classes- 30 juniors (100% girls) Met for 1 hour on Wednesdays throughout the summer in groups of 4.
- Active Edge- 44 juniors (59% girls) New program for 2022, ages 3-5, met for one hour four times throughout the summer
- Play with the Pro- 12 juniors (42% girls) New program for 2022, played 9 holes with students and made post-round recommendations for improvement. There were 5 junior Play with the Pro days.
- Fellowship of Christian Athlete Short Game Clinic- 53 juniors (43% girls), Free to members, and only \$10-30 for non-members depending on the age group. A one-day clinic, 1-3 hours long based on age group, 3 age groups offered. I planned this clinic and volunteered my time along with four other golf professionals.
- LiveGolf Junior League- New program for 2022, will be indoors from November-December.

Total: over 302 juniors in group programs I instructed (up 67 since 2021)

Average over all group programs- 53% girls.

In our programs we strive to provide excellent instruction, in a fun and motivating environment. We have a 5-1 student-teacher ratio for most of our programs. To engage our juniors, we add exciting elements such as a putting course, putting objects, obstacle course, and end the last day with a popsicle in summer or cider and donuts in the fall.

To challenge our students and help track their progress we use scorecards, one for the FUNdamental's Edge program and one for the Competitive Edge program. The scorecard lists all the challenges/games the juniors will attempt to complete during that program. At the end of the program, they are awarded a golf related prize based on the level they completely finished. Colored tape is placed on their bag stand to acknowledge their respective level of completion and provides public recognition for their accomplishment. Juniors who do not participate in group programs have the opportunity to go through these levels in private lessons as well. A special thanks to Kelly Plaisier for her effort in creating and collaborating on these scorecards.

Our programs are planned out in advance to ensure all aspects of the game are covered, including full swing, pitching, chipping, putting, bunker, rules, etiquette, and course management. We also have every size of US Kids clubs available so new students or students with the wrong size clubs can use them at no charge.

Adult Group Programs: Spring Ladies' Edge, Summer Ladies' Edge, Fall Ladies Edge, Play with the Pro
We reached over 170 golfers in these programs.

Hours of Instruction:

Private Lessons- 267 hours of private lessons given so far in 2022, 65% of those were juniors

Group Programs- 173 hours of group programs in 2022, 63% of those hours were in junior programs

Previous awards and certifications:

2021 Michigan PGA Junior Golf Program of the Year
2019 Michigan PGA Junior Golf Program of the Year
2018 Dul Family Player Development Leadership Award
2015 Michigan PGA Youth Player Development Award Winner
American Development Model Certified
PGA Specialized Teaching Professional

Non-golf community/civic involvement:

I volunteer at church teaching the Preschool class on Sunday morning once a month and Kid's Connection on Wednesday nights every week for K-5th graders.

I volunteer with an Afghan refugee family who is resettling in Grand Rapids.

I volunteer with Lingual Learners, a Spanish Immersion Co-op, twice a month.

2022 Highlights

PGA Junior League Team Bryant winning our league.

15-year-old student Lily O'Grady, won OK-White Conference and Regionals as a Freshman and placed 4th in the State Tournament. She also had 3 wins this summer in the 16-18 year-old division on the Meijer/Callaway Tour. Lily also made it to the Regional Drive, Chip, Putt at Scioto.

11-year-old student Eleanor O'Grady won the 11-12 year-old division Summer Player of the Year Award for the Callaway/Meijer Tour. She also went on to the Regional Drive, Chip, Putt at Scioto.

15-year-old student James Seymour had his first win on the Meijer/Callaway Tour in the 13-15 division.

8-year-old student Evolet Emmons made in to the Sub-Regionals Drive, Chip, Putt at The Mines.

My favorite highlight is that my three daughters, ages 4, 6, and 8, all attended golf programs this year!

Junior League Testimonial:

"I want to thank you for your patience with my son over the last few years of PGA Junior league. His competitiveness and his need for perfection make golf a tough sport for a young person still learning to control his emotions. You have guided him and given him space on the course, and I've enjoyed watching him mature out there as he must take the good with the bad... It takes a great deal of patience and kindness to deal with so many kids in so many frustrating circumstances. You always handle it with grace and a smile. You are always willing to answer a question or lend a hand. I am so glad my son continues to be a part of it. Thank you for helping bring this league to so many kids in West Michigan."

Thank you for considering me for this award!

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