

2025 Youth Player Development Award Candidate Bio Form

Please submit this form no later than **Friday, October 4, 2024 at 4pm.**

Email *

kpmckinley@yahoo.com

Name of Nominee: *

Kevin McKinley

Facility Employed at: *

First Tee Northern Michigan

Year Elected to Membership: *

2002

Please describe each of the programs conducted to grow the game amongst youth at your facility, in the community, in the Michigan Section and nationally including the number of consumers who have attended these programs in 350 words or less: *

Kevin conducts many programs for youth with 906 registrants for summer programming in 2024 along with over 6500 in schools. Here are the highlights:

- * First Tee Camps - 18 4-day camps with 337 students
 - * Advanced Skills Academy - 1 8-week session with 14 students
 - * GAJUGA - Gaylord Area Jr Golf Association - 1 8-week program for 60 students
 - * PGA Jr League - Gaylord Program had 40 students; Harbor Springs program had 60 students and the 13U Team finished T-2nd in the State Championship (2 strokes from First) losing in a 5th man playoff to play for the State Championship.
 - * Little Linksters - (5&6 year olds) - due to popularity, Kevin added 2 sessions this year and added a location. 6 separate 4-week sessions for 81 kids.
 - * Cheboygan Area Junior Golf - 6-week program for 148 kids then added a 2-week Advanced Program for 14 kids. This program is totally FREE to all juniors.
 - * Indian River Junior Golf - (sister program to Cheboygan and also FREE) - 6-week program for 55 kids
 - * Girls Golf - Also due to popularity, Kevin added a session this year. 2 8-session programs for 50 girls
 - * Mackinaw City Camp - 6-session program for 12 kids
 - * Harbor Point Day Camp - 4-day Camp for 8 kids
 - * Boyne Adventure Camp - Taught 8 weeks for 75 kids
 - * Fall Golf League - 2 separate leagues for 2 age groups. 4-week clinic and play days for 24 kids
 - * Camp Harbor - 1-day visit to local day care for 16 kids
 - * Otsego County Sportsplex - 1 day visit to 80 kids
 - * Golf In Schools - Served 19 school districts by going into the gym classes and taught over 6500 kids. Also went to Field Days for 9 schools and saw 3000 kids.
 - * Camp Daggett Partnership - conducted clinics and activities at Camp Daggett's Father/Son and Mother/Daughter Weekends and saw over 50 parent/child tandems.
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Please describe your contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a national level * including service as a chairperson or as a member of the player development committee in 150 words or less:

- Kevin is a current member of the National Adult Player Development Committee.
- Kevin is a current member of the Growth of the Game Committee in the Michigan Section which will focus on all the PGA Reach pillars.
- Kevin was an early adopter of PGA Junior League and the first in house league in Michigan and one of the first in house leagues in the nation which paved the way for several very successful in-house leagues in our state.
- Treetops was a pilot facility for the PGA Family Cup (now PGA Family Golf) while Kevin was Director of Golf there. Kevin has continued to run PGA Family Golf programming at First Tee with a highly successful 19 team event in 2023 and 2 events with over 30 families in 2024.
- Kevin was awarded the GAMECHANGER Award in 2023 for his contributions to PGA Junior League and PGA Family Golf and will earn it again in 2024.

Please describe your involvement and significant leadership contributions through mentoring * and sharing with other PGA of America Professionals about Youth Player Development and Growing the Game in 250 words or less:

- As an officer of the Michigan Section, Kevin was instrumental in developing the Michigan Section's Growth of the Game Grant Program. This program infuses in excess of \$50,000 per year to assist professionals in our Section with their player development programs at their facility.
- Under Kevin's guidance, a program of the year was developed to award the top Adult program and top Youth program in the state additional funds for the following year to allow their program to flourish. The additional cash was only one aspect of the benefits of the grant program with the other (possibly more important) being acknowledgement and the sharing of ideas with the entire Section at a Michigan PGA Meeting.
- After Kevin's successful school program growth in 2023-24, He was asked to come present thoughts and ideas to several PGA/PGM students at Ferris State University. It is likely that Kevin will also be training the students to develop their own golf in schools program in mid-Michigan.
- As Michigan Section President, Kevin developed a video update on a regular basis that included pertinent Michigan Section and PGA of America information. Always present in these videos was the highlighting of growth of the game efforts by professionals around the Section who might not otherwise get recognized.

Please describe your image and leadership in the area of youth golf and your overall integrity in *
250 words or less:

- Kevin's image within the Youth Player Development space has certainly been enhanced with his role as the Executive Director of the First Tee Northern Michigan. However, Kevin has long been a support of PGA of America growth of the game initiatives especially as shown above with PGA Junior League and PGA Family Golf. As a board member and officer of the Michigan Section, Kevin shared the benefits of all PGA of America initiatives using his experience as backup every chance he got.
- In the past year, with the experience of seeing thousands of kids in their gym class, Kevin has already and will continue to beat the drum of the importance of developing a golf in schools' program all over the state and the country. Kevin is including several northern Michigan professionals in his plan to divide and conquer the golf in schools' program in northern Michigan more than doubling the number of kids reached during the previous year. As a board member of the Section, a member of the Growth of the Game Committee (both Section and National) and a candidate for District 5 Director, Kevin will use his platform to grow this initiative.

Please list any other PGA Section or National Awards you've received and the year(s) you received them (50 word limit): *

PGA of America Patriot Award - 2017

MICHIGAN SECTION

- * Youth Player Development - 2024
- * Bill Strausbaugh - 2018, 2024
- * Golf Executive of the Year - 2022
- * Professional Development Award - 2019
- * Golf Professional of the Year - 2017
- * Patriot Award - 2013, 2015, 2016

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