



Spring 2026

Growth of the Game

Player Development Grants opened on March 1st and will remain open until March 31st. To continue with the alignment of our pillars of PGA REACH Michigan, we are offering junior, military, and inclusion grants again in 2026. PGA Professionals are limited to applying for a grant in a maximum of two categories. Grant applications can be found on our website.

The 2025 Program of the Year was selected by a thorough review process that included voting by the Growth of the Game sub-committees and interviews by the finalists. The three winners will be recognized at the Spring meeting and during the Presidents Dinner in the fall.

Junior POY: Ethan Busch-Anderson, Marquette Golf Club

Military POY: Doug Temple, Bay Valley Resort

Inclusion POY: Dan Lock, Lock Golf Academy

Junior PGA Championships - The 2026 Junior PGA Championships will be hosted at Bedford Valley Golf Course, with the Girls competing on June 17–18 and the Boys on June 25–26. The top two finishers in each division will advance to the National Championships held at PGA Frisco's Fields Ranch from July 28–31.

Beyond the opportunity to compete nationally, these championships serve as vital qualifying events for Team Michigan, the state's new elite junior development program and a key pillar of the U.S. National Development Program. Participants in the Junior PGA Championships will earn points toward 2027 Team Michigan selection based on their finish, according to the program's published selection criteria. To be eligible for Team Michigan points, players must be at least 13 years old by January 1, 2027, and under 19 years old as of July 1, 2027.

PGA Jr. League - *See the Player Engagement Consultant Report from Stacey Rice-Dorman, PGA for details and important updates.*

Our PGA Jr. League Section Championship will once again be held at Binder Park Golf Course on August 6 - 8, 2026. Thank you to Alex Johnson for his interest and cooperation with our championship.

For 2026, we are proposing the return of a 13u Celebration Division alongside our traditional Championship Division. This non-advancing flight is designed for recreational All-Star teams to enjoy the post-season atmosphere in a low-pressure environment. By focusing on the player experience rather than qualifying, we aim to address pace of play concerns and provide an inclusive opportunity for players of all skill levels.

Drive Chip Putt - Registration is now open for the 2026 season! This year, we are hosting 16 local qualifiers:

A big thank you to the staff at

Salem Hills Golf Club
Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club
Boulder Creek Golf Club
Belle Isle Golf
Foundation Golf Center
Harbor Shores Golf Club
White Lake Golf Club
Boyne Mountain Resort
Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club
Sunnybrook Country Club
Hawk Hollow Golf Course
Bay Meadows Family Golf Course



Milham Park Golf Club
Pheasant Run Golf Club
Currie Municipal Golf Course
Riverview Highlands Golf Course
We are looking forward to an exciting season!

The Orchards Golf Club and Kalamazoo Country Club will host Subregionals for 2026.

With all of your help and use of your facilities the DCP is able to be so successful! THANK YOU!

PGA WORKS Fellowship - In 2025, PGA WORKS Fellow positions transitioned to a 6-month term due to a short-term funding reduction from PGA REACH, as the foundation's leadership team actively reorganizes its finances to adapt to these changes. Our 2024 - 2025 Fellow, Hayley Guilinger, completed her time with the Section last May and has since taken a position with Outlyr for the Dow Championship in Midland as their Volunteer Coordinator. Similarly, Kenadie Daeger, our 2025 Fellow, finished her term in October and recently joined the Kentucky Golf House as their Junior Tour Coordinator. We have hired University of Oklahoma graduate Lilly Boehm for our 2026 fellowship, and she will begin her 6-month term with us this May. We are proud to share that 7 of our 8 past fellows continue to work within the golf industry.

PGA HOPE is expanding for 2026 with 5 new program locations. We are scheduled to operate 52 sessions across 26 locations serving nearly 600 Veterans! Thank you to the following locations for your unwavering support of PGA HOPE!

Ann Arbor
Auburn Hills
Battle Creek
Bay City
Belmont
Bloomfield Hills
Big Rapids
Comstock Park
Fremont
Gaylord
Grand Haven
Grand Rapids
Harrison
Lansing
Livonia
Midland
Mount Pleasant
Orchard Lake
Pierson
Plymouth North
Plymouth West
Rochester
Royal Oak
Schoolcraft
Taylor
Troy

PGA HOPE Graduate Opportunity Events

PGA HOPE CUP will be held at The Fortress Golf Course in Frankenmuth on Wednesday, September 2nd.

PGA HOPE Operation: Hero Challenge will be held at Bedford Valley Golf Course in Battle Creek on Thursday, September 24th.



PGA REACH Budget

Throughout 2025, the Section collaborated closely with our Lead Professionals to implement critical cost-saving measures, including facilities donating course and range fees, covering graduation costs, and instructors graciously donating their honorariums or participating in fundraisers. These efforts significantly reduced our operational program expenses, allowing us to conclude the year in a much stronger financial position than originally projected. This success is a direct result of the generosity of both outside donors and our PGA Professionals who remain deeply committed to the PGA HOPE mission.

Looking ahead to 2026, we aim to successfully operate all 26 program locations across the state. While our national funding from PGA REACH is designated to cover the operational costs of 16 of these programs, we remain confident in our ability to sustain the full expansion based on our 2025 performance. The 10 additional locations will be supported through the same local fundraising efforts and the generosity of our Section's Professionals and facilities. We are continuing to aggressively pursue grants, sponsorships, and additional revenue streams to offset remaining operational costs. Maintaining this level of collective support will be vital to ensuring the long-term sustainability and growth of our impact on the veteran community.

PGA REACH Michigan Fundraisers

Birdies Fore REACH - We were proud to successfully launch the 2025 Birdies Fore REACH event, featuring nine participating teams at our birdie marathon hosted at The Pines of Lake Isabella last October. We extend a sincere thank you to John Sommerville for hosting and to the 18 PGA Professionals whose efforts made the event a success, raising over \$22,000 for PGA REACH Michigan.

As we look toward 2026, this event stands as the most crucial fundraising initiative for our foundation. We are actively looking to expand participation and involve more Professionals to build on this momentum. A host site and date for the 2026 marathon are currently being finalized and will be shared soon.

PGA REACH Michigan Auction - In 2026, we are launching the PGA REACH Michigan Auction, a key fundraising initiative for our foundation. To ensure its success, we are seeking high-value contributions including foursomes at premier facilities, donated playing lessons from top instructors, and exclusive access to experiences or items that are not typically available to the general public.

Beyond physical donations, the success of this auction relies on the active support of our PGA Professionals in sharing the initiative with their memberships and customer databases. This is designed to be a completely turn-key process that does not take time away from daily operations; we simply ask for our members' assistance in spreading the word to help us reach the unique network of outside contacts that only our Professionals can access.

Operation: Hero Challenge - We will also continue to operate the **Operation: Hero Challenge**, a fundraiser led entirely by our PGA HOPE graduates. This initiative empowers our veterans to share their personal journeys and spread the word through their own networks, raising support for the programs they directly experienced. This remains a vital way for our graduates to give back and ensure future participants have the same opportunity to benefit from PGA HOPE.

Lastly, we will continue to share other national fundraising campaign initiatives like Patriot Golf Days and HOPE 4 Heroes.