

October 2026

Growth of the Game

Chair: Doug Temple and Player Development Coordinator/ PGA REACH Michigan Activities Director Madison Maurier recapped a few items:

Player Development Grant summaries are Due by December 1st. An email was sent this morning with the instructions and forms to complete your summary report. Please make sure to get your summaries submitted on time. This will impact whether you are eligible for a grant in 2027.

Grants are formatted to align with the 3 pillars of PGA REACH Michigan: Youth, Military, and Inclusion.

The amounts awarded for 2026 were:

2026 Junior Grants Awarded: \$29,150 (35 grants awarded)

2026 Inclusion Grants Awarded: \$16,750 (18 grants awarded)

2026 Military Grants Awarded: \$3,500 (3 grants awarded)

The Program of the Year Award recognizes members and their facilities with a program that has utilized a grant and made an impact on their community. The 3-step process was implemented this past year and culminated with the Award winners being recognized at the President's Dinner.

2025 Youth Program of the Year: Ethan Busch-Anderson, PGA, Marquette Golf Club

2025 Military Program of the Year: Doug Temple, PGA, Bay Valley Resort & Conference Center

2025 Adult Program of the Year: Dan Lock, PGA, Lock Golf Academy at Tanglewood Golf Club

The subcommittees within the Growth of the Game committee to help further implement and improve the committee and help with the foundation board in areas of need within our section.

Junior PGA Championships: Junior PGA Championships were held this year for the Girls at Bedford Valley Golf Course on June 17th-18th. 48 participants played with the overall Champion being Hannah Kim from Troy and runner-up Saisha Patil from Okemos. For the Boys Championship, they played at Bedford Valley Golf Course on June 25th-26th. 144 participants competed, with Bentley Coon of Horton being named the overall champion and Zane Rueger from Saline as runner-up. All four individuals advanced to the National Junior PGA Championship on July 28th – 31st at Fields Ranch East & West in Frisco, Texas.

Drive Chip Putt: We hosted 16 local qualifiers and 2 sub-regionals with a record number of 1,575 juniors in attendance.

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 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

A shoutout also goes to Jeff Stalcup at The Orchards Golf Club and Chris Johnson at Kalamazoo Country Club for hosting Sub-Regionals.

Applications for host sites in the 2027-2028 season are now open and will close on November 6, 2026.

With all of your help and use of your facilities, our Drive, Chip and Putt program can be so successful! THANK YOU!

PGA Jr. League: Our Section Championship was hosted at Binder Park Golf Course on August 6th-8th. This year, we had a record number of twenty-eight 13u teams and nine 17u teams, each made up of 8 players.

Our 13u Champions were the team from Traverse City coached by PGA Professional Scott Wilson. Our 17u Champions were the team from Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club coached by PGA Professional Nick Kornis.

The Regional this year took place at Bedford Valley Golf Club in Battle Creek, MI. Traverse City had an incredible run making it all the way to the 13u Championship Match and the 17u Warwick Hills team finished in 5th.

The 13u and 17u teams from Milham Park, coached by PGA Professional Dean Marks, also advanced to the Regional through the All-Star Play Day route. The 13u team finished 7th and the 17u team finished 6th.

A huge thank you to Alex Johnson at Binder Park Golf Course, Dean Kolstad from Gull Lake View Resort, and Dan Wilson at Bedford Valley Golf Club for hosting PGA Jr. League All-Star Season events this year.

PGA HOPE: In 2026, we hosted 46 sessions across 26 locations with nearly 500 Veterans becoming graduates! Thank you to the following locations for your unwavering support with PGA HOPE:

Ann Arbor
Auburn Hills
Battle Creek
Bay City
Belmont
Big Rapids
Bloomfield Hills
Comstock Park
Fremont
Gaylord
Grand Haven
Grand Rapids
Harrison
Lansing
Livonia
Midland

Mount Pleasant
Orchard Lake
Pierson
Plymouth North – St. Johns
Plymouth West – Fox Hills
Rochester
Royal Oak
Schoolcraft
Taylor
Troy

For the third consecutive year, PGA HOPE Michigan earned a wildcard spot to compete in the **PGA HOPE Secretary's Cup**, known as "Our Heroes' Major Championship". In conjunction with the PGA Championship, this event creates an unforgettable experience for teams of four Veterans and a PGA Professional from each selected Section. This year, Team Mount Pleasant, winners of the 2025 Michigan PGA HOPE Cup, traveled to Chester Valley Golf Club in Philadelphia, PA, to represent Michigan. Led by PGA Professional Scott Vice, Team Michigan claimed its first-ever victory with an impressive four-under score of 31.

A few big events happened this fall with PGA HOPE:

PGA HOPE Cup was hosted on September 2nd at The Fortress with 16 professionals and their team of 4 PGA HOPE Graduates playing in an 18-hole scramble. Team Gaylord, led by PGA Professional Russ Glasby won the 2026 PGA HOPE Cup. Everyone had a great time making memories, forging friendships, playing some great golf, and honoring the amazing men and women who served! We had a total of 64 Veterans involved in the event, making it a huge success again this year.

Operation: Hero Challenge was hosted on September 24th at Bedford Valley with 36 teams (72 Veterans) participating. The teams competed in an 18-hole scramble along with a Drive, Chip and Putt skills competition, showcasing the skills they learned throughout their PGA HOPE session. Additionally, they were tasked with recruiting donations to support their team, resulting in the PGA HOPE Graduates telling their story about their PGA HOPE journey and ultimately raising over \$31,700 for PGA HOPE Michigan.

Thank you to Kyle Martin at The Fortress and Dan Wilson at Bedford Valley for hosting our PGA HOPE post-program events this season!

A new PGA HOPE Graduate opportunity began this year through partnership with **Oak Heart Lodge Golf Weeks**. Oak Heart Lodge is a non-profit retreat dedicated to providing healing, comfort, and camaraderie for disabled Veterans. Oak Heart Lodge Golf Weeks gave a few of our graduates the opportunity to stay at the lodge for 5 days and play 3 rounds of golf at Pilgrim's Run Golf Club, Tullymore Golf Resort/St. Ives/Waters Edge Golf Course, and American Dunes Golf Club. This year 32 Graduates were selected to attend, and everyone had incredibly impactful experience spending time with fellow Veterans both on and off the golf course.

Thank you to Michael Rey at Pilgrim's Run Golf Club, Scot Cucksey and Dan Peterson from Tullymore/St. Ives, Tim Hurja from Waters Edge, and Doug Bell at American Dunes Golf Club, for hosting our PGA HOPE Graduates. We also want to say a huge thank you to everyone at Oak Heart Lodge for making all this possible and for being such a great partner for our PGA HOPE program. To Owners Pete and Anne Eardley, Lodge Host Chris Raines, and our Golf Weeks contact Henry Sommerdyke, thank you for your dedication to Veterans across Michigan and for giving back to our graduates.



Two PGA REACH Fundraising events happened this summer and throughout the fall:

This year we held the inaugural Rounds Fore REACH Auction virtually throughout the month of June. We had a total of 93 rounds donated from across the state, as well as lessons, and clubs for a total of 101 items. We are incredibly thankful to the professionals who generously gave, and to all our bidders. In our first year, we raised over \$19,000 and are so excited to see how it grows in years to come.

Our second annual **Birdies Fore REACH** event occurred on October 1st at Eagle Eye Golf Club where we had 18 teams of Michigan PGA Professionals, Associates, and amateurs participating in this 72-hole scramble. Our Professionals generated pledges for every birdie their team makes in this 72-hole event, raising both awareness and support for PGA REACH Michigan.

Thanks to the efforts of our PGA Professionals and the generosity of their donors, we raised over \$32,000. Special congratulations to Dan Urban, Kelsey Malone, and Michael Carrillo from Gull Lake Country Club for being the top fundraisers of this year's event, bringing in over \$5,000.

Thank you to Jason McCutcheon for welcoming us for the day at Eagle Eye Golf Club!