

2018 TWIG KIDz Newsletter!!!



What is TWIG KIDz?

TWIG KIDz is a youth program sponsored by Triangle Women in Golf (TWIG) that introduces young girls to the game of golf and aims to inspire a lifelong passion for the game. Each year, TWIG welcomes up to 20 girls between the ages of 8 and 18 to participate in the TWIG KIDz Program.

Girls receive many benefits from playing golf, including but not limited to, learning responsibility, building character, gaining confidence, developing a strong work ethic, discipline and perseverance, cultivating rewarding friendships in a safe and supportive environment, and becoming engaged in a sport that can provide social and professional networking possibilities well after childhood, and that can truly be played for a lifetime.

Also, and importantly, there are opportunities for girls who play golf to earn college scholarships. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) estimates that roughly 200 college golf scholarships for women go unclaimed each year because there are too few girls competing in the sport to qualify for these scholarships. One of the primary goals of TWIG is to help girls in the TWIG KIDz program learn the game of golf and develop the golf skills needed to be able to compete for golf scholarship opportunities, which could make all the difference to their education, their income and their future. The program strives to accomplish this by providing the

girls in the program with golf lessons, golf equipment, and assistance in attending golf camps and clinics.

TWIG partnered with Dona Lerner Golf Academy, which is sited at Brier Creek Country Club, for TWIG KIDz clinics. Clinics were held roughly two to three times per month from May to October.



Our 2018 TWIG KIDz

We had 19 wonderful girls participate in the 2018 TWIG KIDz Season! They are:

Level 1s

Amina Johnson
Aniyah Wiley
Asha Johnson
Ava Cash
Hannah Holder
Isabel Barnes
Jordan Parker
Madison Parker
Mya Smith
Nyema Hennighan
Shea Aaron
Zariel Rivera
Zoria Smith

Level 2s

Christine Lauture
Gabrielle Pace
Sophie Lauture

Level 5s

Tyla McAffity
Tyler Spriggs

Privately Coached

Genesis Lewis

TWIG KIDz Levels

TWIG KIDz golfers are grouped roughly by skill and experience for group instruction.

Level 1 works on:

- Golf Basics, Mechanics, Core Values
- Grip and Set-Up
- Stroke Mechanics



Level 2 works on:

- Level 1 skills
- Thinking Competitively



Level 5 is a group requiring personal invitation by Dona Lerner. In addition to refining the core golf mechanics and competitive mindset taught to beginner and intermediate players, Level 5 players also develop in the process of:

- Fairway and Green Strategy



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TWIG KIDz on Tour!

In addition to attending TWIG KIDz clinics from May to October, a number of TWIG KIDz athletes are on course developing their game and engaging in highly competitive golf.

Golf Camp

Level 5 athlete and 10th grader Tyla McAffity attended the Dianne Dailey Junior Girls Golf Camp at Wake Forest University in June. She won the longest drive contest on the first day of camp, carrying one of her drives 250 yards. Tyla was also in the group that won the 9-hole competition during the camp session. She received one-on-one instruction from Dianne Dailey, who retired in May 2018 after 30 years at the helm of the WFU Women's Golf Program, and tips on fitness, nutrition, and the college application process.



Pictured: WFU Retired Coach Dianne Dailey with Tyla McAffity



SAS Junior Championships

At the end of July, Level 5 Tyla McAffity and Level 2 TWIG KIDz athletes (and sisters!), Christine and Sophie Lauture competed in the SAS Junior Championship held at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, NC. All three girls made a terrific showing with Sophie finishing 3rd in the Girls 12-13 Age Division, Christine tying for 5th in the Girls 14-18 Age Division, and Tyla tying for 13th in the Girls 14-18 Age Division.



Pictured: Sofie Lauture (2nd from left) with play group from SAS Jr. Championships

Several girls were successful on local golf tours, including Tyler and Sophie, who both competed in the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour. Notably, Sophie Lauture was the 2018 Sandhills Spring Tour Champion for the Girls 12-14 Age Division!



Drive, Chip & Putt

What is "Drive, Chip & Putt," you ask? Drive, Chip and Putt is a free nationwide junior golf development competition aimed at growing the game by focusing on the three fundamental skills employed in golf. The TWIG KIDz Program was super proud to have Zariel Rivera participate in a Local Qualifier for the competition at Hope Valley Country Club in Durham, NC on August 1st. Zariel made a great showing, coming in 2nd in the Drive competition and 4th overall, which made her an alternate for the Subregional competition in the Girls 10-11 Age Division.



Pictured: Zariel Rivera at Drive, Chip & Putt

NCHSAA

Three TWIG KIDz athletes represented their high schools in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Women's 4A Golf Championships. Tyla McAffity (10th grader) led her team from Athens Drive HS in the State Championship tourney. Christine Lauture (11th grader) was a key contributor for Wakefield HS, which also made

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it to the State finals. Gabrielle Pace helped take the Millbrook HS team to the East Regional. Tyla and Christine finished 41st and 47th, respectively, in a field of 78 golfers in the State finals.

TWIG KIDz Group Outings

The TWIG KIDz program combines the instruction at clinics with group outings and activities to encourage friendships and bonds around the game of golf and beyond.

Top Golf

TWIG KIDz athletes, members of their families, and a few of the TWIG KIDz mentors gathered at Top Golf in Charlotte on a Sunday afternoon in late-July for a little fellowship, some good eats, and a lot of golf fun!



Playing Premier Courses in the Area

TWIG Kidz Level 5s, Tyla and Tyler, joined various TWIG members to play a round at a couple of the Triangle area's private country club courses. On July 5th, the girls joined TWIG members to play Prestonwood Country Club and on August 16th, the girls played North Ridge Country Club. Impressively, Tyla shot 71 and Tyler 77 on the NRCC Lakes Course, which neither had ever played before.



TWIG KIDz Awards

At the end of the TWIG KIDz season, Coach Nick Zurowski of the Dona Lerner Golf Academy helped TWIG KIDz Mentors—Valerie Willis (Committee Chair), Glenda Apple, Esther Morse, Kim Rehberg, and Karen Robinson—select winners for end-of-season recognition awards. The award recipients were:

- Most improved—Shea
- Most consistent—Hannah
- Love of the Game—Zariel
- “Triple A” (Awesome Attitude Award)—Aniyah



Pictured: Aniyah Wiley, Winner of the TWIG KIDz 2018 “Triple A”



Pictured: Award Winners—Aniyah (Triple A), Hannah (Most consistent), and Shea (Most Improved). Not pictured: Zariel (Love of the Game)

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Genesis, Gabrielle, Tyla & Tyler at the Doug Boyd Scholarship Tournament on July 14th



Jordan high fives her TWIG KIDz mentor, Glenda



Christine works on putting technique



Coach Nick gives Level 1 Golfers the inside scoop on bunker play



Last Lesson . . . TWIG KIDz 2018 was AH-MAZING!! See you in 2019!



Ava models the 2018 TWIG KIDz season participation medal, as well as her TWIG visor, generously donated to each TWIG KID by TWIG Member, Edwina Divins

