



2024 TRIANGLE WOMEN IN GOLF TWIG KIDZ NEWSLETTER

Brief History of the TWIG Kidz Program

23 years and the TWIG Kidz program is still going strong! The charter TWIG member, Erica Colleton, started the Youth Program in 2001. Later another charter TWIG member, Loretta Hicks, subsequently renamed the Youth Program to TWIG Kidz program and TWIG member Diana Phillips chaired the TWIG Kidz program from 2003 to 2011. TWIG member Karen Robinson chaired the TWIG Kidz program from 2012 to 2014. TWIG member Valerie Willis was on the TWIG Kidz committee in 2014 and began chairing TWIG Kidz from 2015 to 2024.

TWIG Kidz 2024 Overview

Each year between 16 and 20 girls (ages 6-18) participate in the TWIG Kidz program. All of them have an interest in learning golf and/or being able to compete for golf college scholarships. 14 Kidz began the program in 2024; by the end of the year, we grew to 20. Our 2024 theme was "Honoring the African American heroine golfers who laid the groundwork for African American girls and women to participate in the game of golf."

TWIG Kidz 2024 Spring Calendar

The Spring golf session began with two TWIG Kidz opening ceremonies and both were held at Lonnie Poole golf course in Raleigh, NC. Each young lady received a copy of their TWIG Kidz Playbook to work on character building to become a mature golf player throughout the 2024 golf season. Special thanks to former TWIG members and playbook authors; Dr. Linda Carnes and Jackie McClamb. Everyone also received a golf towel and materials to create their vision board to set their golf goals. During the opening ceremony parents had the opportunity to ask questions while the TWIG Kidz worked together in groups to collaborate and build a sisterhood sharing their thoughts while completing their VISION BOARD workbook. Also, National Master fitter and Director of Player Development, Coach Daniel Spurling, was a guest speaker who went over the benefits of playing with the right size golf clubs. Afterwards, Coach Spurling invited the TWIG Kidz to visit his facility at Lonnie Poole for a golf fitting session or to answer any follow up questions at a later point of time.

TWIG KIDZ PLAYBOOK

Character for Golf and Life





L to R – Vanessa Walker, Co-Chair; August, Sabrina, Rachel, Penelope, Aubrey, Makayla and Valerie Willis, Chairwoman of TWIG Kidz

Opening CEREMONY



Brielle, Olivia and Aubrey who joined both opening ceremonies.

April 2024

Trinity receives her TWIG Kidz starter package after submitting her score card to Coach Tyler Nelson in her first of the year match play at Lonnie Poole golf course.



April 2024

Sabrina teeing off on par 3 hole #17 during match play with coach mom and August putting on the same hole with coach dad during their first spring match play at Lonnie Poole golf course.

TWIG Kidz 2024 Summer Calendar

Before summer golf camps began, we hosted a Spring Golf Retrospect session led by TWIG member Vanessa Walker, Co-TWIG Kidz Chair and TWIG Foundation, Inc. board member, Stephanie Clifton-Pace and Coach David Hinton of Tri-Golf with the parents. In the other Lonnie Poole conference room, the TWIG Kidz met with TWIG member Dr. Flora Brown and myself, TWIG Kidz Chairwoman, Valerie Willis, to go over their TWIG Kidz playbook and vision board progress. Also to learn the history of African American golf players historical roles and accomplishments ranging from the establishment of the United Golf Association (UGA) created in 1926 by Robert Hawkins, court cases like in 1955 to desegregate public golf courses in Atlanta, GA, to the first African American who designed, owned and operated a golf course, Mr. William Powell, in East Canton, OH in 1948. Dr. Brown engaged the TWIG Kidz via conversations, videos and grouping them into teams to compete in golf trivia games.

We briefly covered African American golf heroines like Maggie Hathaway, who led golf protest for access to public courses; Ann Gregory who broke the United States Golf Association (USGA) color line; Althea Gibson who help lead the way for African American women in playing in the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and the eight African American heroines who have earned their Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour cards.

Unfortunately, due to all the African American golf historical accomplishments we ran out of time and ended our insightful session on Dr. Renee Powell, daughter of William Powell, who today continues to own and operate the Clearview golf course with her brothers.



June 2024 – Mid-year Retrospect & Goals Progress/Black History Part I of 2 with TWIG member Dr. Flora Brown leading the discussion.

The parents documented their Spring TWIG Kidz Retrospect and Coach Hinton, myself and Vanessa Walker reviewed and designed a 2024 Golf Fall curriculum for the TWIG Kidz. The new TWIG Kidz Fall curriculum was implemented after their summer golf camp season.



June to August summer golf camp(s)
Rachel at Duke Jr. Golf camp by
Coach Brent Bowen, PGA.

Rachel stretching to prepare
for her putting lessons at
Duke Jr. Golf camp.



June to August summer golf camp(s) left to right – Valerie Willis, Aubrey and Makayla at the indoor X-Golf Cary facility golf camp by Coach Andrew Horne.



Makayla completing her virtual golf challenge.

TWIG Kidz 2024 Fall Calendar

The following Short Game Fall curriculum was designed for the TWIG Kidz to focus on their short game development and improvement:

Weeks 1-3: Knights Play Golf Center, Apex, NC

Wk#1: 8/14 – Assessment

Wk#2: 8/21 – Putting Fundamentals

Wk#3: 9/4 – Chipping Basics

Weeks 4-10: New Venue Tri-Golf, Raleigh, NC

Wk#4: 9/11 – Pitching Techniques

Wk#5: 9/18 – Putting Strategy

Wk#6: 9/25 – Advance Chipping & Bunker shots

Wk#7: 10/2 – Pitching Accuracy

Wk#8: 10/9 – Par 3 Play

Wk#9: 10/16 – Review and Reinforcement

Wk#10: 10/23 – Progress Summary



Kimani,
Layla and Carolyn
executing
their putting
instructions.



We began at Knights Play in Apex, NC, which is a Par 3 only golf course and later relocated to the new Tri-Golf facility in Raleigh, NC, in which Coach Hinton introduced the TWIG Kidz to various golf simulator equipment and completed the short game curriculum.



Fall Short Game at Tri-Golf

TWIG Kidz receiving
instructions at the driving
range from Coach Hinton
on using the golf
technology to measure and
assess their golf stroke
mechanics.



**Coach Hinton
working with TWIG
Kid Layla.**

**Our newest TWIG
Kid member,
Cyvadra, is
executing her
pitch shots.**



**New member
TWIG Kid London
working on her
chip and pitch
shots.**

**Left-handed TWIG
Kid Sabrina also
working on her
pitch shot at the
driving range.**

Fall Short Game at Tri-Golf

Par 3 Match Play

Knights Play Golf Center



TWIG Kidz demonstrating their new short game skills.



Coach Hinton provided a summary on what the TWIG Kidz should practice during the winter months to prepare for next year's golf season.

African American Golf History Part 2 of 2

2024 EOY Golf Celebration

We met at Tri-Golf facility to complete their End of Year (EOY) ceremony. The TWIG Kidz parents met with Coach Hinton to tour the facility and address any questions on the Fall Short Game curriculum. The TWIG Kidz met in the conference room and had the opportunity to meet two distinguished golf guests to complete our African American Golf Heroines history overview. TWIG Kidz Arianna, Genesis and Kimani were selected to ask our golf trail blazer Dr. Renee Powell questions. TWIG Kidz Karina, Makayla and Sabrina were selected to ask our other distinguished guest, Ms. Debbie Tyner president of the Wake-Robin Golf Club. Wake-Robin is the first African American women's golf club founded in 1937 in the United States.



TWIG Kidz gathered together for a virtual zoom call with our distinguish golf guest. Names going clock wise; Karina, Trinity, Sabrina (white visor/purple shirt), Layla (black sweater), August, Genesis (beige cap), Cyvadra, London, Brielle, Aubrey, Makayla, Ava, Kimani (white visor/green shirt) and Arianna.

African American Golf History Part II



Computer monitor of our guest speakers and coordinator. Speakers starting from top right going clock wise; Ms. Debbie Tyner, President of Wake-Robin Golf Club, Dr. Renee Powell, daughter of Willam Powell and owner plus operator of Clearview Golf Course and Dr. Flora Brown, retired Black History professor and TWIG Kidz African American Golf History coordinator.



**Wake-Robin Golf Club
Founded 1937**

**Dr. Renee Powell,
Clearview Golf Course
Started 1946**



TWIG Kidz receiving their EOY Package



Valerie Willis, Genesis & Rose Foster, TWIG President



Valerie Willis, Layla, Rose Foster, TWIG President



Valerie Willis & TWIG Kid Rachel



Crystal and Brielle, Valerie Willis and Rose Foster, TWIG President

2024 EOY Golf Celebration



Professional photos provided by Alleah Pretlow Photography for our TWIG Kidz end of year recognition and celebration. Names from left to right; Madeline, Brielle, London, Cyvadra, Rachel, August (back row), Kimani, Makayla, Aubrey, Ava, Trinity, Arianna, Karina, Allie, Genesis. Front row left to right; Sabrina, Valerie Willis and Layla.

In summary, it was a great 2024 golf season with the TWIG Kidz in their new purple and white shirts (Golf shirt apparel by G. Alan, Inc.). Everyone received a "GOLFING" canvas handbag with inscribed words of inspiration to carry their new golf tumblers, golf starter kits and monogram golf markers with "TWIG Kidz 2024" engraving at their EOY celebration. The 2025 TWIG Kidz golf schedule will continue with Coach David Hinton in the spring focused on Short Game development, next with summer golf camps and ending the season in the fall at Lonnie Poole with Coach Steve Pietsch, focused on 18-hole golf course management strategies.