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## VSGA-VIP SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION TO DISTRIBUTE \$238,500 TO 49 AWARD RECIPIENTS

**RICHMOND** — Forty-five high-school seniors and four graduate students in the turfgrass research program at Virginia Tech are among 49 scholars who will be honored on Monday, June 1 at Richmond Country Club as the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation introduces its 2026 award recipients.

The Foundation provides grants and gifts for scholarships, scientific and educational research, and other charitable purposes. This year's grants total \$238,500 and since being launched, the program has distributed nearly \$3.5 million to 1,301 students.

Included in the 2026 total are three \$10,000 awards, matching the largest gifts the Foundation has ever rewarded.

"The VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation was honored to announce the creation of and to award three new, named scholarships—the Linda A DiVall award, the Jake Allison Award and the Ned Baber Award," VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation President Joan Gardner said. "The generosity of these donors, combined with that of our VSGA-VIP cardholders, our previously established named awards, and other individual donors, allowed the Foundation to enhance our encouragement and support of Virginia's scholar golfers through an increase in the number of awards granted, and in the total dollar amount of scholarships."

Funding for scholarships is generated primarily from the sale of the VSGA VIP Golf Card, and Virginia high school seniors with an interest in golf are eligible to apply. Students are evaluated based on academic achievement, character, community involvement and an essay on the impact of golf on the applicant's life.

2026 grants include the 25<sup>th</sup> C. Dan Keffer Award, which goes to an individual in honor of the former VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation Committee Chairman. This year's recipient was Charlottesville's **Liam Foster**, who attends Stanford Online High School.

Other 2026 grants include the Spencer-Wilkinson award, which draws from a fund formed by Debbie Spencer and Mary Nell Wilkinson. Since its formation more than 20 years ago, 60 young women have received Spencer-Wilkinson scholarships. This year's award went to McLean's **Kaitlyn Lee**, who attends The Potomac School.

The Linda A. DiVall Award is a new named scholarship for 2026. The first recipient is Chesapeake's **Alexis Goboy**, who attends Catholic High School. Three more named scholarships were introduced for 2026 as well. The Jake Allison Award went to Blacksburg's **Cameron Sharp**, who attends Blacksburg High School. The Ned Baber Award went to Roanoke's **Zuhair Mirza**, who attends North Cross School. The Benny Wang Trust Award went to McLean's **Kevin Ren**, who attends McLean High School.

The Red Speigle Award, named in honor of the late longtime teaching professional from the Peninsula area, was given to Virginia Beach's **Jordyn Kyle**, who attends Atlantic Shores Christian School. The David A. King Award, which the senior amateur golfer established in 2002, went to **Henry Hung** of Vienna, who attends Oakton High School. The Richard Smith Award, given in remembrance of the VSGA's longtime director of championships and supporter of junior golf, went to **Charles Lange** of Richmond, who attends St. Christopher's School. The Mike Wise Award, introduced in 2023 and named in honor of the late Roanoke Valley philanthropist with ties to the First Tee – Roanoke Valley, went to **Nicholas Messenger** of Callaway, who attends Franklin County High School.

For the first time, two VSGA Military Scholarship awards were allocated. Recipients in 2026 were Quantico's **Madison Bartra**, who attends Quantico Middle/High School; and Chesapeake's **Austin Stephens**, who attends Grassfield High School. The Military Scholarship was first presented in 2024 and is intended for students who are dependents of active-duty or retired members of the military.

## 2026 VSGA-VIP SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Liam Foster (Charlottesville/Stanford Online HS) — \$10,000 including the C. Dan Keffer Award**

- **GPA:** 4.0
- **Golf Involvement:** Played high school golf at Western Albemarle High School in freshman and sophomore years before transferring to Stanford Online High School (OHS). Was All-State as an individual and won the team state championship while part of the program.
- **Honors/Awards:** Individual Honorable Mention, 2025 Global Conference Model United Nations; Best Unit Six Award - "We the People" Virginia Regional Competition (10th grade); "We the People" Virginia State Finals: 4th place (9th grade) and 5th place (10th grade); Best Regional Team "We the People" - Virginia Regional Competition (9th and 10th grades).
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Founder and Executive Director of theEdge.social (a community for individual athletes experiencing mental health challenges). Recipient AJGA Jerry Cole Award given by Southern Company in association with Rolex and the AJGA (Leadership/Sportsmanship). Research Coordinator for theEdge.social, Board of Mental Health (Stanford OHS): Manage student-advisor-clinician partnership to elevate student voice, guide programming, and ensure ethical oversight for youth wellbeing effort. Junior Golf (member of VSGA and AJGA). Multiple VSGA wins and tops 10s. Full access to AJGA schedule. Invited to 2026 AJGA Rolex All-America Tournament of Champions. Global Brand Ambassador - Mizuno Corporation.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Teaching Assistant for both Biology and Single Variable Calculus at Stanford OHS.
- **College:** Stanford University

- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit & Farmington Country Club

**Kaitlyn Lee (McLean/The Potomac School) — \$10,000, including the Spencer-Wilkinson Award**

- **GPA:** 4.6
- **Golf Involvement:** Began swinging plastic clubs as soon as she could walk. Since then, has have played competitively in PGA Junior League, Drive Chip & Putt, U.S. Kids, VSGA, Middle Atlantic PGA, Peggy Kirk Bell, and AJGA tournaments. Was the MAPGA Player of the Year twice and won multiple tournaments on the MAPGA, Peggy Kirk Bell, and U.S. Kids tours. Captain and starter on The Potomac School's boys' varsity golf team.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Co-Lead of AI Research Project, Boston Children's Hospital; Co-Leader, Fem n' STEM Club; Founding Executive (President), The Syndicate; and Captain, Math Team.
- **Volunteer Activities:** National Board Member, LPGA USGA Girls Golf eLeader Board of Director, Inaugural Council Member, Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour Player Council and Organizer/Fundraiser, DC Metro Cup.
- **Honors/Awards:** 2x All-Conference, Tournament Champions for 3 years, Second Place in Virginia State Championship
- **College:** Harvard University
- **VSGA member:** YOC Virginia

**Alexis Goboy (Chesapeake/Catholic HS) — \$10,000, including the Linda A. DiVall Award**

- **Class Rank:** 7 | **GPA:** 4.5
- **Golf Involvement:** Began golfing in camps at 5 years old and started playing in USKids at 7 years old. Was greatly influenced by her older brother. Currently plays in junior and women's VSGA, MAPGA, AJGA, and PKBGT events. Was the golf captain at Catholic High School for her junior and senior season. Also volunteers at USKids golf events and the First Tee.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** School Ambassador and International Cultural Club
- **Volunteer Activities:** SJC Behavior Consulting and Therapy, USKids Golf Association, First Tee of Hampton Roads, Adopt-a-Park Clean-Up (6 hours) - 11 12, Salvation Army
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society, Capítulo Popocatepetl Spanish Honor Society, Kline Science National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta National Math Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National History Honor Society.
- **College:** Howard University (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** Junior Golf Circuit

**Henry Hung (Vienna/Oakton HS) — \$7,500, including the David A. King Award**

- **GPA:** 4.5
- **Golf Involvement:** Was introduced to golf by his grandfather at a young age but did not begin taking golf lessons until he was 8 years old at Burke Lake Golf Center. Progressed to private lessons at Oak Marr Golf Center after a few years and joined the First Tee program, competing in Metro Tour, USKG tournaments, and Fairfax County tournaments, winning multiple events. Before high school, he started solo lessons at 1757 Golf Center and joined his high school golf team, eventually becoming captain by his senior year. Continued to compete in First Tee and Fairfax County tournaments, representing his chapter at the First Tee National Championship in

New Orleans, as well as winning three First Tee Beltway Classics alongside Team Northern Virginia and winning the 2024 Burke Lake Junior Club Championship.

- **Extracurricular Activities:** EnTrust English-Teaching Program for Students in Taiwan (Team Captain/Supervisor); Oakton High School Biology Olympiads Club (Secretary); New York Academy of Sciences' Junior Academy (Team Lead); Participated in the Global Health Leaders Conference at Johns Hopkins University.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Summer High School Volunteer at Children's National Hospital, Volunteer Golf Coach with the First Tee of Greater Washington DC, SAT Bootcamp Tutor with Schoolhouse.world, Fairfax County Credit Recovery Academy Summer Class Assistant.
- **Honors/Awards:** Oakton Honor Roll 2022-2025, AP Scholar with Distinction 2025; AP Scholar 2024; College Board National Recognition Award 2025; Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award 2024; Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award 2024; National Honor Society 2024-present; Math Honor Society 2024-present; Chinese Honor Society 2024-present; Science Honor Society 2024-present
- **College:** University of Virginia
- **VSGA member:** YOC & First Tee – Greater Washington, DC

### **Jordyn Kyle (Virginia Beach/Atlantic Shores Christian School) — \$7,500, including the Red Speigle Award**

- **GPA:** 4.3
- **Golf Involvement:** Began golfing at 10 years old at First Tee - Hampton Roads. Her experience at first First Tee opened doors for her to play in other tournament events, including: U.S. Kids, VSGA, and Peggy Kirk Bell Golf Tour. Has golfed with Atlantic Shores Christian School varsity golf team since 8th grade and served as captain for two years.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Student Body Government President; Student Body Government Chaplain; Ambassadors' Club; Forensics Team; Jazz Band; Worship Team; varsity cheerleader and captain.
- **Volunteer Activities:** New Life Youth Leader, New Life Church Facilitation Team, and Veterinarian Assistant
- **Honors/Awards:** The College of William and Mary Leadership Book Award Recipient; Christian Leadership Award Recipient (x5); Outstanding Scholarship Award Recipient; ACSI Distinguished Christian High School Student Award Recipient (x2); First Tee of Hampton Roads Volunteer of the Year; Fellowship of Christian Cheerleading Scholar Cheerleader Award; President's Honor Roll
- **College:** William Peace University
- **VSGA member:** YOC Virginia
- **Student member club employee info:** First Tee – Hampton Roads Golf Instructor

### **Charles Lange (Richmond/St. Christopher's School) — \$7,500, including the Richard Smith Award**

- **GPA:** 4.6
- **Golf Involvement:** He began golfing when he was very little with plastic clubs and balls, using his home's hallway as a fairway. From there, he started to frequently golf with his dad before his brother hooked him to it. He and his brother would spend countless hours on the course together, and he finally decided to start playing in tournaments when he was 8 years old.

- **Extracurricular Activities:** Honor Council (Chairman) Golfable LLC (founder); Pizza for Cancer (Co-founder); Investment Club; Ski Club; Guitar Club.
- **Volunteer Activities:** The First Tee of Richmond; Summer at Belmont; Houligan's Rest; Richmond SPCA.
- **Honors/Awards:** 9th Grade Valedictorian
- **College:** Columbia University (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** Junior Golf Circuit & Willow Oaks Country Club

**Nicholas Messenger (Callaway/Franklin County HS) — \$7,500, including the Mike Wise Award**

- **GPA:** 4.3
- **Golf Involvement:** He began chipping and putting when he was 7 years old before starting to compete at 9 years old. Since he has competed in hundreds of junior golf tournaments across several junior golf tours and organizations including the VSGA, Roanoke Valley Junior Golf Tour, Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour, Tarheel Junior Golf Tour, Virginia High School League, and the American Junior Golf Association. In the Virginia High School League, he received awards in all four years of his time on the golf team at Franklin County High School. In his first two years, he was second team in the Blue Ridge District, and in his last two years, he was first team in the Blue Ridge District.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** National Honor Society; DECA club.
- **Volunteer Activities:** All-Star Day at Franklin County High School
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society
- **College:** Ferrum College (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** Junior Golf Circuit

**Madison Bartra (Quantico/Quantico Middle/High School) — \$7,500, including a VSGA Military Scholarship**

- **Class rank:** 2 | **GPA:** 4.1
- **Golf Involvement:** She began playing golf when she was in 8th grade after her dad motivated her too. She qualified for the VISAA States through her junior season and is excited to compete again during her senior year. 2x First Team All-Conference for the Greater Piedmont Athletic Conference and MVP in her sophomore season. She tied for third in the 11th VSGA Girls Championship at Kiln Creek, shooting 88-80.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** 3x captain for girls' varsity volleyball and National Honors Society.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Toys for Tots and Wreath Laying at Quantico National Cemetery.
- **Honors/Awards:** Academic Excellence in Math, Science, ELA, History, PE, in 8th Grade, Academic Excellence in Algebra 1, Biology, ELA Honors 9, Spanish 1, Global Studies, 9th Grade Academic Excellence in Geometry, Chemistry, AP World History, PE, 10th Grade Academic Excellence in ELA 10, AP Environmental, AP Precalculus, Algebra 2, 11th Grade
- **College:** University of Lynchburg (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit

**Austin Stephens (Chesapeake/Grassfield HS) — \$7,500, including a VSGA Military Scholarship**

- **GPA:** 4.2

- **Golf Involvement:** He began golfing at age 6 in San Diego, California and competed with the Pebble Beach Junior Golf Association at 8 years old, placing second. He continued playing in junior tournaments through the Pebble Beach Junior Golf Association, Salinas Junior Golf Association, and The First Tee. After moving to Washington State, he competed in Washington State Junior Golf tournaments, PGA Junior League (including All Stars), and Drive, Chip & Putt, advancing to the subregional level. After moving to Virginia, he returned to tournaments through the VSGA, Under Armour Junior League, and VHSL high school golf. He qualified twice for the Under Armour Junior Golf National Championships in West Palm Beach, Florida. He also competed in VHSL 6A States as an individual during his sophomore year and with his high school team during his senior year, placing 3rd.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** WHRO Public Media Student Advisory Board; Tidewater LEAD Student Advisory Council; Model UN Member; Global Co-Lab Member; and Hoby World Leadership Congress.
- **Volunteer Activities:** While living in Okinawa, Japan, he volunteered with junior golf lessons on base.
- **Honors/Awards:** Superintendents Honor Roll (all years), VHSL Academic Excellence Award (all years), Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Member, National Honor Society Member, National Society of High School Scholars Ambassador
- **College:** Virginia Tech
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit

#### **Kevin Ren (McLean/McLean HS) — \$7,500, including the Benny Wang Trust Award**

- **GPA:** 4.3
- **Golf Involvement:** Started playing golf when he was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and competed on the Under Armour Junior Tour where he qualified for nationals during every season he competed. Advanced to independent ranked tournaments, including the Doral Junior Classic and the George Holliday Memorial Tournament. Has also played in numerous AJGA events and qualifiers, MAPGA, VSGA, and College Prep events. Has helped lead McLean High School to districts and regionals as the Varsity captain.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Next Level Golf Foundation (co-founder); Technology Student Association (President); National Technical Honor Society (Founding President); Photography Club member.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Legal Patent Intern (Whitham & Cook, P.C.); AND Research Intern (McGuire Research Institute).
- **Honors/Awards:** National Technical Honor Society (Branch President); AP Scholar with Distinction; National Honor Society; Science National Honor Society; Math Honor Society; Art National Honor Society
- **College:** University of Virginia
- **VSGA member:** YOC Virginia & VSGA Junior Golf Circuit

#### **Cameron Sharp (Blacksburg/Blacksburg HS) — \$7,500, including the Jake Allison Award**

- **GPA:** 3.9
- **Golf Involvement:** Began golfing when he was old enough to walk and didn't start competing in tournaments until he was around 12, he has fallen in love with it since.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** President of Culinary Club at Blacksburg High School.

- **Volunteer Activities:** Volunteer at Christ Episcopal Church.
- **College:** Wofford College (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit & Blacksburg Country Club
- **Student member club employee info:** Outside operations at Blacksburg Country Club

### **Zuhair Mizra (Roanoke/North Cross School) — \$5,000, including the Ned Baber Award**

- **Class rank:** 2 | **GPA:** 4.0
- **Golf Involvement:** Was introduced to the game by his father at an early age and picked up a golf club for the first time at 2 years old, playing with plastic clubs. Continued golfing for the last 15 years and now plays and practices every day, dedicating countless hours to practice, preparation, and tournament play. Four-year varsity member at North Cross School.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Robotics team, member and leader (4 years); STEM Distinction; Coding Club (4 years); Global Studies Distinction; Model UN (2 years); Chess Club, (2 years) Vice President ('24-'25); Muslim Student Association (MSA), President ('24-'25), 4 years member; Founder and President of Carrom Club (4 years); Honorary Student Council Association (4 years); Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Club (2 years); Media Club (4 years)
- **Volunteer Activities:** Roanoke Valley Rescue Mission; Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital; and International Volunteer in India
- **Honors/Awards:** First Team All-Conference ('22-'25); First Team All-State ('22-'25); captain ('25, '26); AP Scholar with Distinction and Cum Laude
- **College:** University of Virginia College at Wise
- **VSGA member:** Roanoke Country Club and VSGA Junior Golf Circuit

### **Claire Akin (Richmond/St. Catherine's School)**

- **GPA:** 4.2
- **Golf Involvement:** Started playing golf with her dad when she was 4 years old and joined St. Catherine's golf team in 8th grade. She helped lead her team to the co-ed state championship before winning the first team VISAA State Championship in 2025. She was named a captain for her senior season.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Model UN; Student Ambassadors; Peer Advisors; National Student Leadership Conference; Duke Aerospace, Wake Forest Pre-College Program; Psychology Institute; Volleyball, Indoor Track, and Cross Country.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Dominican Republic Mission Trip (Student Translator) and Volunteer Daycare Spanish Teacher
- **Honors/Awards:** Junior Year Spanish Award; AP Scholar with Honor; Honors Designation; NSDA Excellence Distinction; NSDA Honors Distinction
- **College:** University of Florida
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit & Country Club of Virginia

### **Alexis Andrews (Daleville/Roanoke Catholic School)**

- **GPA:** 4.7
- **Golf Involvement:** She started playing golf with her father when she was 3 years old and never looked back. She recently qualified for the Girls' State Championship with Roanoke Catholic

School. For fun, she sometimes competes in meaningful golf tournaments that raise money for non-profits like Challenger Little League Baseball.

- **Extracurricular Activities:** Blue Ridge Partnership for Health, and Science Careers Student Ambassador
- **Volunteer Activities:** Orchard Hills Achievement Center Kindergarten teacher; Young Life Botetourt Capernaum Buddy Leader; Orchard Hills Church Coffee Bar Manager; Orchard Hills Church Children's Ministry 3-year-old lead Sunday School teacher.
- **Honors/Awards:** First Honors, AP Scholars Award and National Honors Society.
- **College:** Clemson University
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit

### **Kendri Ayers (Ashland/Hanover HS)**

- **Class rank:** 2 | **GPA:** 4.4
- **Golf Involvement:** She has played golf for the last 10 years and joined Hanover High School's golf team in 8th grade, eventually becoming the girls' captain. She is also a First Tee Junior Coach at First Tee Greater Richmond and has worked both summer camps and classes throughout the year. She's also the communications officer and social media manager for the First Tee Junior Advisory Board.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** SODA (captain); Program Aid (PA) at Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp; Women and Mixed Chamber Vocal Ensembles/Section Leader; BETA club and French club
- **Volunteer Activities:** Jacob's Chance through First Tee; Hearts with Hands Disaster Relief; Operation Turkey Box; Rise Against Hunger; Hanover County Substance Use Prevention Engagement and Reflection Committee.
- **Honors/Awards:** AP Scholar with Honor; English Department Hawk Award; Fine Arts Department Hawk Award; National BETA Club; National Honor Society; Scholar List
- **College:** College of William and Mary
- **VSGA member:** YOC Virginia
- **Student member club employee info:** First Tee Richmond Junior Coach

### **Gavin Bailie (Earlsville/Albemarle HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.4
- **Golf Involvement:** Has been playing golf since he was 5 years old and was introduced to the sport by his dad, who was the women's assistant coach at the University of Virginia.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Key club 3 years, and FBLA
- **Volunteer Activities:** Local Toy Drive, food assistance, and community-clean up
- **Honors/Awards:** History National Honors Society
- **College:** Roanoke College (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** Junior Golf Circuit & Greene Hills Club
- **Student member club employee info:** Birdwood Golf at Boar's Head Resort, outside services representative

### **Toby Baker (Lebanon/Lebanon HS)**

- **Class Rank:** 2 | **GPA:** 4.0

- **Golf Involvement:** Started golfing at 5 years old and has continued to play his entire life. In 5th grade, he joined his local PGA Jr. team and participated for a couple of years. He finally competed with Lebanon High School Golf during his senior year once his football coach permitted him to. He qualified for regionals in 2A.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** National Honor Society; Future Business Leaders of America; Student Council Association (Vice President); Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and Chess Club (Vice President).
- **Volunteer Activities:** Read Across America Day and Operation Christmas Child
- **Honors/Awards:** Projected Salutatorian and Lebanon High School Student-Athlete of the Month.
- **College:** University of Virginia's College at Wise

### **Carsten Beck (Blackstone/Nottoway HS)**

- **Class rank:** 8 | **GPA:** 4.1
- **Golf Involvement:** He started golfing at 3 years old, competing in Piedmont Junior Golf Tournaments every summer. He enjoys teaching his younger sister how to play and the longevity of golf compared to team sports that typically leave young athletes' lives after high school. It continues to challenge you no matter how old you are. This quality, plus everything golf has taught him, makes it more than just a sport; it's something that will always be part of his life
- **Extracurricular Activities:** National Honor Society
- **Volunteer Activities:** Nottoway River Country Club sports week
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honors Society; Principal's List; 3x All-District, 2x Team States, 2x All-Region and 1x Individual States.
- **College:** Virginia Tech
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit
- **Student member club employee info:** Nottoway River Country Club, grounds maintenance

### **Carter Bransford (Glen Allen/Deep Run HS)**

- **GPA:** 3.4
- **Golf Involvement:** Was first introduced to golf at 8 years old when she attended a summer camp at Independence Golf Club. At the time, she only played golf for fun but gained a bigger appreciation for the sport after COVID-19 canceled her basketball season. She then shifted her focus from basketball to golf and started competing in local PGA Junior League events before advancing to VSGA Circuit and U.S. Kids tournaments in 2022. As she continued to advance her game, she started traveling up and down the East Coast to play in AJGA and Peggy Kirk Bell Girl's Golf Tour tournaments.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Young Life and Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- **Volunteer Activities:** Hermitage Country Club golf instructor and camp counselor
- **Honors/Awards:** Honor Roll
- **College:** University of Richmond (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit and Hermitage Country Club

### **Luke Copeland (Leesburg/Independence HS)**

- **GPA:** 3.9

- **Golf Involvement:** His interest in golf started at 7 years old when he attended a summer camp and then it grew quickly when he joined First Tee. Afterwards, he competed in the PGA Jr. League, the VSGA Junior Circuit, and the Loudoun Junior Golf Association (LJGA) through his senior year of high school. He has also volunteered with LJGA and spent the past five summers helping Loudoun County Special Olympics at Brambleton Golf Course.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Football and wrestling
- **Volunteer Activities:** LJGA player assistance volunteer and Special Olympics
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society, AP Scholar Award, Congressional Medal of Service Award, and Mu Alpha Theta
- **College:** Purdue University
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit
- **Student member club employee info:** Bull Run Golf Club, member and guest services

### **Andrew David (Alexandria/Saint John Paul The Great Catholic HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.4
- **Golf Involvement:** He started playing golf almost as soon as he could walk, going to places like TopGolf to swing plastic clubs with his dad. Still, he never knew he would be so bewildered by the golf world. As he grew older and closer to the game, he began playing 9-hole competitive tournaments with the VSGA, MAPGA, and PGA Jr. League. Nine-hole tournaments became 18-hole tournaments, and 18-hole tournaments became multiple days of golf. Between his competitive play, he then became very involved with First Tee. The program has given him the opportunity to travel nationally, learn the importance of community service, and develop his game.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Senior Student Ambassador, Student Athletics Page lead, First Tee Beyond the Green, and JV Basketball (Captain)
- **Volunteer Activities:** Junior Golf Coach (First Tee Greater D.C), Parish Volunteer at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, and Teen Advisory Council
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society, Bonnie Scholarship Award, and Principal's Honor Roll
- **College:** James Madison University
- **VSGA member:** First Tee – Greater Washington D.C. and VSGA Junior Golf Circuit

### **Maxwell Dorsey (Chesapeake/Nansemond-Suffolk Academy)**

- **GPA:** 3.9
- **Golf Involvement:** He got his first set of golf clubs when he was 9 years old and would frequently head out to golf with his father. However, he didn't fall in love with the sport until his freshman year of high school when he started working at a golf club. Ever since finding his love for golf, it has become his favorite hobby.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Freshman class officer, men's volleyball club, varsity lacrosse, football, indoor track and field and JV basketball.
- **Volunteer Activities:** St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Suffolk Parks and Recreation, spaghetti dinner, and concession stand at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy.
- **Honors/Awards: National Honor Society:** National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Rollins Scholarship, Woods Scholarship
- **College:** University of Richmond
- **VSGA member:** Elizabeth Manor Golf & Country Club

- **Student member club employee info:** Elizabeth Manor, outside staff member

### **Rita Eovino (North Chesterfield/Monacan HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.5
- **Golf Involvement:** She started golfing at 7 years old and has worked her way up through all the First Tee classes, the youngest Little Legends, to now being an ACE Participant. Eovino used to work as a volunteer coach at the First Tee before becoming a paid junior coach. She golfed throughout middle school and high school, except for her junior year. During her freshman year she was selected for a VSGA golf camp at UVA during the summer, where she improved her game. Since then, she has shaved over 10 strokes off her previous handicap of 25. She has been selected for two First Tee National Opportunities: The Game Changers Academy in Minnesota and the PGA Tour Superstore Leadership Retreat in Atlanta.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** BETA Club, Best Buddies, First Tee Junior Advisory Board, and Richmond LPGA and USGA Girl's Golf Chapter
- **Volunteer Activities:** Monacan Humanities
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Most Improved Golfer at Monacan High School
- **College:** Christopher Newport University
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit
- **Student Member Club employee info:** Junior coach at First Tee – Chesterfield

### **Ethan Eschenmann (Blacksburg/Blacksburg HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.1
- **Golf Involvement:** He started golfing around 3 years old and has since practiced about once or twice a week. Played varsity golf his senior year.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Varsity soccer and DECA
- **Volunteer Activities:** Best Buddies and Blacksburg Mini-Thon
- **College:** Virginia Tech

### **Cameron Gallagher (Centreville/Westfield HS)**

- **GPA:** 3.8
- **Golf Involvement:** Started golfing around 5 years old when she was introduced to the sport by her dad through the Junior Golf Program at the Country Club of Fairfax.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Bulldog Buddies (Secretary), Unified Sports, Our Minds Matter, and varsity basketball and soccer
- **Volunteer Activities:** Basketball camp counselor and writing center tutor
- **Honors/Awards:** English Honor Roll
- **College:** James Madison University
- **VSGA member:** Army Navy Country Club

### **Ava Garrison (Zion Crossroads/Louisa County HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.1
- **Golf Involvement:** Started golfing and competing in junior tournaments through PKBGT, AJGA, VSGA, and the Junior PGA. As she progressed through high school, she began focusing more on

competitive golf with the goal of playing at the collegiate level. She trains under Bill Fedder as she prepares for collegiate competition. Four-year varsity golfer and two-year captain.

- **Extracurricular Activities:** Rotella Fedder Excellence Academy
- **Volunteer Activities:** ISO Excellence Foundation board
- **Honors/Awards:** Talented and gifted program
- **College:** Radford University (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit & Spring Creek Golf Club
- **Student member club employee info:** Cart attendant at Spring Creek

### **Carson Iroler (Galax/Galax HS)**

- **GPA:** 3.6
- **Golf Involvement:** Has played competitive golf since he was 3 years old, starting on the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour. Has since played in many events through the VSGA, AJGA, and the Tarheel Junior Golf Tour. Iroler has won two state team championships and qualified for state's all four years where he placed 6th, T-7th, 4th, and T-3rd individually.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Golf lessons
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society
- **College:** Ferrum College
- **VSGA member:** USGA/VSGA GC

### **Campbell Marshall (Williamsburg/Jamestown HS)**

- **Class rank:** 34 | **GPA:** 4.2
- **Golf Involvement:** She started golfing when she was 11 years old and continues to practice regularly as a hobby.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Key Club, Student Council Association (Historian), WJCC Student Panel Representative, varsity softball (team MVP), club lacrosse (captain), cross-country and indoor track.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Heritage Humane Society and Exceptional Games
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society
- **College:** Penn State University
- **Student member club employee info:** Golf cart attendant at Two Rivers Country Club

### **Samantha Nguyen (Springfield/Lake Braddock HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.1
- **Golf Involvement:** Started golfing through the First Tee and Girls Golf when she was 7 years old. From there, she started playing in various tournaments through the VSGA, MAPGA, U.S. Kids Golf, PKBGT, Drip Golf, and AJGA. Four-year member of varsity golf and was awarded Most Valuable Player in 2024 and 2025 and recognized as Lake Braddock's Athlete of the Month in August 2024. Additionally, in high school, she began volunteering with The First Tee and Girls Golf as an assistant coach and as a volunteer to help with events.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Girls in Roles of Leadership, STEM Exploration for Youth, and Vietnamese Student Association
- **Volunteer Activities:** LPGA/USGA Girls Golf Volunteer Coach, The First Tee; and the Clinical Dental Hygienist Volunteer at Falls Church Academy

- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society; Semi-Finalist for The Posse Foundation Scholarship; AP Scholar and 3x Lake Braddock Academic Letter
- **College:** Grinnell College (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** First Tee – Greater Washington, DC
- **Student member club employee info:** PGA Tour Superstore Front End/Customer Service Associate

### **Tony Nguyen (Colonial Heights/Colonial Heights HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.5
- **Golf Involvement:** Started golfing in 8th grade and joined his high school varsity team during his junior year. Was his team's 1 seed in his junior season and 2nd seed during his senior year.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Key Club; FCA; DECA (Head of Leadership & Recruitment); National Beta Club and Varsity Baseball (Captain)
- **Volunteer Activities:** Sock Hops; Biliteracy Nights; Food & Sock Drives; Snowflake Ball; Trunk-or-Treat; Baseball Training at Kinetic Pitching Performance; and Dinner Nights
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society (Executive Board); Spanish Honor Society; Science Honor Society; Math Honor Society; Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society; Marketing Student of the Year; and UVA Jefferson Scholarship Nominee
- **College:** University of Virginia
- **VSGA member:** YOC Virginia

### **Decker Plude (Virginia Beach/Landstown HS)**

- **GPA:** 3.1
- **Golf Involvement:** Started playing golf at 6 years old; joined the VSGA Junior Golf Circuit in high school.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Eagle Scout and varsity lacrosse (captain)
- **Volunteer Activities:** Norfolk Food Bank, Fraternal Order of Police, and Aid Another
- **College:** Coastal Carolina University
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit
- **Student member club employee info:** Princess Anne Country Club – outside operations team

### **Trace Reavis (Galax/Carroll County HS)**

- **Class rank:** 8 | **GPA:** 4.4
- **Golf Involvement:** Started playing at 13 years old with the VSGA, Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour, and Lanto Tour. Was the captain of his high school's golf team for three seasons.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Varsity basketball
- **Volunteer Activities:** Golf camp instructor at Blue Ridge Country Club
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society
- **College:** Virginia Tech
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit

### **Josephine Sanchez (Alexandria/Hayfield HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.2

- **Golf Involvement:** Has golfed since she was seven years old after her dad introduced her to the sport at First Tee - Greater Washington, DC. She has since been a part of the First Tee, volunteering as a coach for younger classes and has been selected for three First Tee national opportunities. Through First Tee, she was introduced to LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf, which she has been involved with since she was nine years old. She competed in the PGA Junior League for three years and in Drive, Chip, & Putt. In 2017, she advanced to the Sub-regional Qualifier at River Bend Club. She played in several First Tee Metro Tour tournaments from age 12 to age 16. She played in three US Kids tournaments in the Summer of 2025 and placed second in US Kids event at 1757 Golf Course. She's been a member of her high school's co-ed varsity team for four years and played individually in girls' regionals for all four years. She competed in co-ed regionals three out of her four years. She received the Most Improved Player award in 2024 during her sophomore year and the Coaches Award in 2025 for her junior season.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Young Life, and club and JV soccer
- **Volunteer Activities:** Grace's Table, Extra-Ordinary Birthdays
- **Honors/Awards:** College Board National Recognition Program, AP Honor Roll, National Honors Society, National Art Honors and Spanish Honors Society
- **College:** Florida Southern College
- **VSGA member:** First Tee – Greater Washington, D.C.

#### **Liam Shafer (Virginia Beach/Kellam HS)**

- **GPA:** 3.6
- **Golf Involvement:** Shafer's appreciation for golf started when he was gifted a couple of clubs by his neighbor. From there, he found time to go hit balls after his lacrosse or rugby practices before starting a job at Heron Ridge Golf Club. He plays weekly at Heron Ridge, which has become a second home to him, and is excited to start studying a professional golf management course at Penn State this summer.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** FCA; Student Council Association (President); Knights Sports Network; Student Athletic Leadership team; varsity lacrosse (captain); varsity indoor track and field; and varsity volleyball
- **Volunteer Activities:** Red Cross; Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia; Samaritan House; Rise Against Hunger; and Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- **Honors/Awards:** Rho Kappa National Honors Society
- **College:** Penn State
- **VSGA Member:** USGA/VSGA GC
- **Student member club employee info:** Heron Ridge Golf Club, golf cart attendant

#### **Cole Shelton (Nokesville/Patriot HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.0
- **Golf Involvement:** Started golfing when he was 15 years old so he could try out for his high school's JV team. Shelton went on to play two seasons of varsity golf at Patriot High School afterwards.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Robotics team, Project Lead the Way, and varsity baseball (captain)
- **Volunteer Activities:** Mission trip to Tanzania, NHS tutoring, and House of Mercy
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society, AP Scholars Program, Athlete of the Month (11/25), and Academic Letter Recipient

- **College:** Cedarville University
- **Student member club employee info:** Pro shop and golf cart attendant at Bristow Manor Golf Club

### **Charlie Stiffler (Charlottesville/Albemarle HS)**

- **GPA:** 4.6
- **Golf Involvement:** He began golfing with his dad when he was in elementary school and played in local PGA junior league events with a friend in the summer. He went on to have an illustrious golf career at Albemarle High School, serving as co-captain for three seasons and competing at the No. 1 or No. 2 positions on the team during all four years. Throughout high school, he also competed in numerous VSGA and MAPGA tournaments, with top finishes in several of them. Highlights of his high school career include being named 2025 Class 5 District Player of the Year, making 1st team All-District for three years, being named to the All-Region and All-State teams during his senior year, and finishing 4th at the 2025 Class 5 State Championship.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Key club (treasurer); Christ Episcopal Church Youth Group Member & Mission Trip Participant; varsity tennis (captain),
- **Volunteer Activities:** Christ Episcopal Church Youth Group Member and Mission Trip Participant; Toy Lift; Red Cross; Rake-A-Thons
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society; Science National Honor Society; National Social Studies Honor Society; National Math Honor Society; 2X Raising Cane's Student Athlete of the Month; College Board National Rural and Small Town & Top School Recognition Awards; 3x All-District, All-Region (12<sup>th</sup>), All-State (12<sup>th</sup>) and 2025 Class 5 District Player of the Year.
- **College:** University of Michigan
- **VSGA Member:** YOC Virginia & VSGA Junior Golf Circuit
- **Student member club employee info:** Birdwood Golf at Boar's Head Resort – golf cart attendant

### **Carson Street (Meadowview/Patrick Henry HS Glade Spring)**

- **GPA:** 4.0
- **Golf Involvement:** He started golfing during his sophomore year of high school and played for his high school team for three years as well as on the Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour for two years.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Varsity basketball (captain) and baseball
- **Volunteer Activities:** Little League Basketball
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society
- **College:** University of Virginia College at Wise (golf)
- **Student member club employee info:** Glenrochie Country Club – pro shop employee

### **Rory Tierney (Purcellville/Loudoun Valley HS)**

- **GPA:** 3.6
- **Golf Involvement:** He started golfing when he entered his freshman year and became a junior member at Loudoun Golf & Country Club once he turned 14. He then joined the VSGA shortly after and started competing regularly. During his junior year he helped his high school team win regionals, and as team captain this past year, Tierney helped lead Loudoun Valley to the State Championship. Golf is a major part of his life, and he spends nearly all his free time on the course.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Western Loudoun Basketball League volunteer

- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society
- **College:** Penn State
- **VSGA Member:** Loudon Golf & Country Club, VSGA Junior Golf Circuit, and YOC Virginia

### Emily Tull (Roanoke/Cave Spring HS)

- **Class rank:** 1 **GPA:** 4.0
- **Golf Involvement:** Started golfing at 7 years old, which gave her an early foundation in the sport, but it was not until her junior year of high school when she started taking it seriously. She was a two-year varsity golfer at Cave Spring High School.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Key club, BETA club, FCA, DECA, and varsity volleyball
- **Volunteer Activities:** Elementary school volunteer and Holiday Book Drive,
- **Honors/Awards:** National English Honor Society and honor roll
- **College:** Virginia Tech

### Ella Walker (Abingdon/Abingdon HS)

- **GPA:** 4.2
- **Golf Involvement:** Played varsity golf for four years at Abingdon High School.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Technology Student Association Chapter Secretary, Scholastic Bowl, Falcon Radio Network sideline reporter and camera operator and FCA
- **Volunteer Activities:** Emory & Henry University football concessions, Highlands Fellowship Children's Ministry
- **Honors/Awards:** 2022 3A state championship team, 2023 district champions, National Honor's Society, Technology Student Association state finalist in Extemporaneous Speech and STEM Mass Media Regional Champion: Essays on Technology, Extemporaneous Speech, Debating Tech, STEM Mass Media, Forensics.
- **College:** East Tennessee University
- **VSGA Member:** Glenrochie Country Club

### Rachel Warren (Virginia Beach/Landstown HS)

- **GPA:** 3.9
- **Golf Involvement:** Four-year varsity golfer and captain during her senior season; played in 9-hole events with Under Armour Series and 1-day events with the VSGA. Qualified for the state championship in junior and senior seasons.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** DECA and finance committee member
- **Volunteer Activities:** United Way; "Cookies with Santa"; back to school prep at Salem Middle School
- **Honors/Awards:** All-State, AP Scholar with honors, College Board National Recognition Award
- **College:** Le Moyne (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit & Sewells Point Golf Course
- **Student member club employee info:** Sewells Point cart attendant

### Finn Watson (Arlington/HB Woodlawn)

- **GPA:** 4.0

- **Golf Involvement:** Entered his first tournament at 8 years old and started to fall in love with golf when he was 12. From there, he started playing in US Kids, VSGA and MAPGA tournaments. Competed on the Washington-Liberty High School golf team (three-year captain).
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Started soccer and golf club at HB Woodlawn; sang in chorus for four years; performed three times at the Kennedy Center; STEM club; stock market club; and message club.
- **Volunteer Activities:** Morgan's Message
- **Honors/Awards:** AP Scholar Award and 2025 6A individual state champion
- **College:** James Madison University (golf team)
- **VSGA Member:** VSGA Junior Golf Circuit

### Jacob White (Leesburg/Tuscarora HS)

- **GPA:** 3.6
- **Golf Involvement:** He started golfing at 15 and quickly discovered how much he enjoyed the sport. Played varsity golf during his junior and senior year and was selected as a captain for his senior season.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Key club, co-editor of school yearbook, junior class council (secretary), played JV and varsity baseball
- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society and AB Honor Roll
- **College:** Coastal Carolina University
- **VSGA Member:** USGA/VSGA Junior Golf Circuit
- **Student member club employee info:** Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club, course operations

### Luke Winters (Charlottesville/Western Albemarle HS)

- **GPA:** 4.3
- **Golf Involvement:** Started golfing when he was 4 years old after being introduced to the game by his father, who is a pro. Competitions started to ramp up for him when he was seven years old as he played in his club's junior league teams until he was 13 years old. He participated in the annual Drive, Chip, and Putt local qualifying events held at Birdwood Golf at Boar's Head Resort. He then began playing in summer VSGA Junior Circuit events and MAPGA Junior events for new opportunities. Played two years of varsity golf at Western Albemarle High School and contributed to its 8th VHSL state team championship. He intends to play club golf in college.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Sports photography club and percussionist for high school band
- **Volunteer Activities:** Special Olympics, WAHS Community Service, and WAHS With a Cause
- **College:** James Madison University
- **VSGA Member:** YOC Virginia & Birdwood Golf at Boar's Head Resort
- **Student member club employee info:** Farmington Country Club, outside service operations

### Carter Wolfe (Gate City/Gate City HS)

- **GPA:** 4.0
- **Golf Involvement:** Started getting seriously involved in golf when he was around 10 years old. In high school he started playing on the VSGA Golf Circuit, Tarheel, AJGA, and some National qualifiers. He qualified for the VSGA Junior Stroke Play Championship last year and won a men's invitational this year at his home club, Ridgefield's Country Club. He was the VHSL Class 2A State

Individual runner-up during his junior year. This past season he won the 2A Individual State Championship.

- **Honors/Awards:** National Honor Society
- **College:** Radford University (golf team)
- **VSGA member:** USGA/VSGA Golf Circuit

## **TURFGRASS RESEARCH AWARDS**

### **Samuel Crawford**

- His research project focuses on the development and application of advanced artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics in the field of turf management, specifically for high-value turf areas like golf greens. The key innovation here is the use of robotic systems equipped with optical weed-recognition capabilities to identify and eradicate weeds through precise, organic methods. These methods include the use of cryogenic liquids and laser technology, which are targeted specifically at weeds, thereby minimizing environmental impact and avoiding damage to the turf.

### **Aman Jakhar**

- Research has involved spring dead spot and winter injury, focused mainly on how these conditions affect athletic field playability and safety. Her findings show some of the measurements we take such as surface hardness (clegg hammer), ball rebound (measuring height of ball bounce), soil moisture, and shear strength (shear vane) can be used for golf course maintenance and ensuring golfers are provided with the most consistent playing surface possible.

### **Elisabeth Kitchin**

- Her research focuses on identifying the exact precision and efficacy of targeted applications of pesticides for turfgrass pests, particularly diseases and weeds commonly found on golf courses. While maintaining a pristine turfgrass stand is paramount within the realm of golf course management, the integration of precision technology holds immense potential. However, the current standards of practice often present challenges in fully realizing the benefits of targeted applications made with GPS sprayer technology. The turfgrass industry has been witnessing a shift towards integrated technology, and the focus is on addressing the specific hurdles faced by golf course managers and turfgrass professionals in implementing these precision turfgrass management strategies.

### **Samuel Kreinberg**

- His dissertation research focused on developing best management practices to help mitigate the risk of pollinator exposure to harmful pesticides through weed management approaches. The work seeks to understand the response of floral physiology and pollinator foraging behavior to various turf protection products in managed turf systems and beyond. With the high use rate of insecticides in turfgrass pest management, it is essential to investigate integrated pest and pollinator management approaches that turfgrass managers can adopt to minimize the decline in pollinator abundance.

*The VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation has a program in place to accept gifts and memorials. Anyone interested in funding a named scholarship or contributing to the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation should contact the VSGA.*

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