

The Club at Starr Pass hosts First Green Field Trip for Arizona FFA Students

Students treated to a great day of education and on course learning in conjunction with the annual Arizona FFA State Leadership Conference

The Club at Starr Pass played host to an Arizona FFA First Green Field Trip on June 6th. Starr Pass Golf Club's Golf Course Superintendent Alex McCallister, Director of Golf Lucy Mathews and General Manager David Loomis welcomed 35 students to the facility for a fun day of on course learning. The students were in Tucson for the annual Arizona FFA State Leadership Conference.

GCSAA's First Green program is a science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) environmental outreach program that uses the golf course as a living laboratory. K-12 students participate in hands-on, outdoor learning stations that include lessons on wildlife habitat, soil science, environmental sustainability, mathematics, water conservation, water quality, career exploration and more.

Stations included Technology/Equipment (drones, maintenance equipment), Cool Tools on the Green (soil moisture meter, cup cutting, Stimpmeter), Natural Resources/Environment (Audubon, IPM (turf types, diseases, insects, weeds), Business/Leadership (budgeting, building a team), and an industry panel on "Why I work in Turf". The students were also treated to breakfast burritos, snacks and drinks as well as numerous raffle prizes provided by numerous sponsors.

BASF Senior Sales Representative for Turf & Ornamental Frank Santiago organized the day with financial assistance from the Cactus and Pine GCSAA and GCSAA. In addition to hosts McCallister, Mathews and Loomis, other volunteers included Krystal Abbott, Billy Hix, Jeff Jensen, Sydney Loflin, Kai Umeda, Chris Soto, Cody Swirczynski, Shane White and members of the U of A TurfCats.

For more information on First Green, visit the website at www.thefirstgreen.org.











