



FIRST GREEN FACTS

What is First Green?

First Green is an innovative environmental education outreach program that uses golf courses as environmental learning labs – the only program of its kind. First Green provides extensive resources to golf course superintendents, including online lesson plans. First Green coordinates outdoor STEM “learning labs” at golf courses that allow students to perform hands-on experiments and tests, all within the focus of their schools’ environmental science and/or environmental horticulture curricula. In these outdoor “labs” students test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, do math activities and work with local issues such as stream-bed or owl-nest restoration.



Celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2017, First Green is an international, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation. Its headquarters are in Bellevue, Wash.

How First Green Operates

First Green works with many diverse organizations in the golf industry.

Collaborations

- First Green is able to offer programs on local golf courses/in local communities in every region of the United States, thanks to in-kind support from the Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSAA). GCSAA regional field representatives assist golf course superintendents in hosting field trips across the eight GCSAA regions.
- First Green expands its reach by working with national associations, such as the United States Golf Association (USGA). The USGA has been a supporter of First Green programming since 2005, lending research and resource management funding and expertise.
- In addition, First Green and the Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) signed an MOU in 2015 to expand First Green in Western Canada. Planning is underway for WCTA to provide First Green training in Eastern Canada.
- Golf courses seeking Audubon International certification can use First Green for their community outreach.
- First Green also benefits from long-term support from Washington State Golf Association, Pacific Northwest Golf Association, Northwest Turfgrass Association, golf clubs and individual donors.



National Training

- First Green has held superintendent training workshops at the national Golf Industry Show (GIS), reaching highly qualified and interested superintendents from all over the U.S., Canada and Asia.
- A First Green webinar was recently offered to soil conservation districts, offering a way to broaden First Green's reach.
- The First Green website, **thefirstgreen.org**, provides how-to videos, lesson plans and field trip checklists.

First Green Mission

- Support environmental education, STEM learning and stewardship.
- Illustrate the environmental and community benefits of golf courses.
- Introduce the next generation to the game of golf.

Number of students impacted (First Green multiplier)

- Over 15,000 students have been on First Green field trips. Each field trip of 25 students reaches an estimated 230 people with environmental and golf messages (as a result of students sharing with friends and families and teachers sharing with colleagues).

How can I learn more?

Visit thefirstgreen.org (be sure to watch the videos on the home page), twitter.com/thefirstgreen or facebook.com/thefirstgreen.

Social media: [twitter. com/thefirstgreen](https://twitter.com/thefirstgreen) | facebook.com/thefirstgreen



Inspecting pond critters – Bellevue, Wash.



Calculating speed of green with stimp meter – Orlando, Fla.



Learning how to putt – Orlando, Fla.