



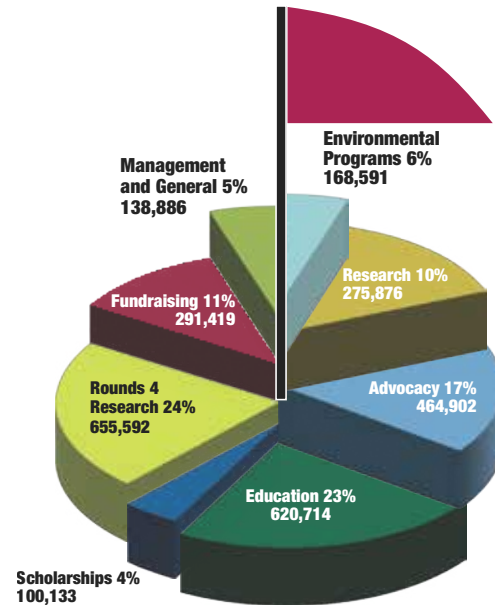
2024 Impact Report

Philanthropy

Founded in 1955 as the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Foundation serves as the association's philanthropic organization and relies upon the support of donors to:

The GCSAA Foundation relies upon the support of donors to:

- Fuel innovation through research
- Expand knowledge of golf course management professionals through education
- Tell golf's story through advocacy and outreach
- Help bright minds pursue their dreams through scholarships



First Green

First Green, an innovative GCSAA program, pairs golf courses with local schools for unique science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) learning opportunities. Through a generous \$1 million gift from Mike and Tami Hoffman, creating and implementing lesson plans that incorporated the creative arts was a key priority in 2024. A teacher task group helped to develop new, arts-based curriculum including “Design Your Own Golf Course Hole” and “Photography on the Golf Course.”

In 2024, GCSAA organized 107 field trips reaching 6,400 elementary, middle, and high school students. First Green field trips have been held in 42 states, Canada, the U.K., Australia, and Pakistan.



Education, Scholarships, and Grants

Continuing education is vital in keeping golf course managers up to date on current trends in the industry. Every year, there are advancements in environmental and agronomic techniques that help maintain healthy turfgrass and enable sustainable practices. In 2024, 84 recipients received funding through 10 key scholarship and grant programs. These opportunities are available each year for children and grandchildren of GCSAA members, as well as turfgrass students, future researchers, assistant superintendents, equipment managers, and superintendents who are interested in advancing their careers.



Research Initiatives

GCSAA Foundation-funded research assists the efforts of golf course managers in operating their courses with greater sustainability and efficiency. The Foundation remains committed to funding applied scientific research that improves every aspect of the game – from player enjoyment to resource management.

Rounds 4 Research is an innovative program aimed at generating resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future. Its goal is to address a critical shortage of funding for ongoing, university-based agronomic research, education, and advocacy programs. The 2024 Rounds 4 Research campaign raised an all-time high of \$690,167.



Golf Course Environmental Profile

This year, The Foundation continued to support the Golf Course Environmental Profile – which is critical to the future of the game of golf. This profile enables us to ensure the profession and industry are well represented by all course types, budget levels, and locations. It conveys accurate data on the land use, management of natural resources, and environmental stewardship associated with golf courses across the country.

Best Management Practices

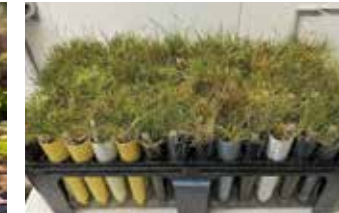
Golf course best management practices (BMPs) offer guidelines for superintendents to manage their facilities in an efficient and environmentally sustainable manner. In 2017, GCSAA launched an initiative to establish BMPs in all 50 states. As of December 2020, this goal was met – and in 2024, Ontario published the first BMP for Canadian provinces. GCSAA continues to host educational workshops across the nation aimed at building awareness and enabling superintendents to craft personalized, course-specific BMP manuals.



Government Affairs

In 2024, numerous bills were introduced at the state and local levels that have an impact on golf course management. Thanks to the work of the GCSAA members across the country, chapter lobbyists, and the GCSAA government affairs team, many of these harmful bills were defeated.

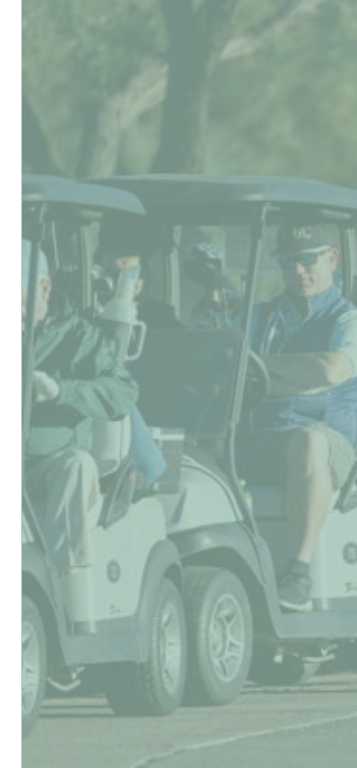
The GCSAA Grassroots Ambassadors program celebrated its 10th anniversary, as recruitment continues to soar. There are now 580 advocates spanning 424 congressional districts. Growing this advocacy group will only help to further GCSAA's reach and influence with Congressional leaders tasked with making critical decisions on issues impacting the future of the industry. GCSAA's reach and influence with Congressional leaders tasked with making critical decisions on issues impacting the future of the industry.



Your Support

With your help, the GCSAA Foundation can continue to provide funding for research, education, advocacy, and scholarships that benefit all who come into contact with the game of golf. Thank you to all of our donors who helped make 2024 a great success. <https://www.gcsaa.org/foundation/supporters>

Show your commitment to the future of the game by making a donation today.
<https://gcsaa-foundation.snwbll.com/giving-portal>





1421 Research Park Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049
www.gcsaa.org/foundation
800.472.7878