



Golf In Schools Volunteer Manual

Thank you for volunteering in Sawmill's Golf In Schools Program. Sawmill is passionate about introducing the great game of golf to as many people as possible. One of our initiatives is getting golf clubs into the hands of kids in the hopes that at some point in their lives they will play golf. Golf Canada's Golf In Schools program is one way that Sawmill is promoting golf to juniors. The program at Sawmill is now in its 6th year and this is our first post covid year. We had adopted 6 schools but have returned in 2023 with 2 schools to get our feet back under us.

2023 schools:

St Ann Catholic School (Fenwick)
Wellington Heights Public School (Fenwick)

Projected to be added back in 2024

A.K. Wigg Public School (Fonthill)
St Edward Catholic School (Jordan)
St Martin Catholic School (Smithville)
Senator Gibson Public School (Beamsville)

In The Winter Months (Part 1 of the Program)

Carrie, Jeremy, Ben & Meg went into each school once/twice as volunteers. We use the Golf In Schools the indoor package made by Golf Canada. It has:

- 9 Right Handed Irons, 3 Left Handed Irons
- 9 Right Handed Putters, 3 Left Handed Putters
- 10 Red Super-Safe Foam Balls
- 10 Yellow Super-Safe Foam Balls
- 20 No Bounce Balls (5 each of red, green, blue and yellow)
- 60 Anti-Slip marker cones plus stand
- 10 Marker Flags (various colours)
- 10 Putting Cups, 20 All Surface Tees
- 2 Make-A-Hoops (12 sections)



We set up stations and the kids have the opportunity to pitch, chip and putt. They love it!! What's been inspiring is that the schools we've been in the most are retaining the skills and we've needed to develop advanced programming!!!



May/June Field Trip (Part 2 of the Program)

Sawmill is paying for each school to visit Sawmill. Each school comes via bus and each grade stays for 45 minutes to an hour. They will have an introduction, rotate between 3 stations, and have a snack.

When the Schools Visit in 2023:

- St Ann – Wednesday May 31st 9:30am to 11:30am
 - Wellington Heights – Wednesday June 7th 9:30am to 12:30pm
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Why Volunteer??

You have a chance to get kids excited about this great game that you love so much. For many of these kids, it is the first time they will have ever been at a golf course. YOU have a chance to make a lasting impression on our future generation.

There are 3 things I can promise you:

- 1) You will be exhausted at the end of the day
 - 2) We will have lots of laughs during the daily review session (aka wine/beer in the bar once last bus leaves)
 - 3) Your heart will melt when a kid drains a putt or nails a drive and looks at you with a smile as big as a mountain:))))
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FIELD TRIP DAY: AS A MEMBER OF SAWMILL'S VOLUNTEER ARMY

Please bring with you your putter and wedge. Please also bring a hat and sunscreen. I will provide beverages and snacks.

Introduction (10mins)

Carrie will welcome the kids to the golf course and point out areas of interest (putting green, fairway, tee block, sand trap). She will then do a refresher with each group to remind them of the safety rules and teaching points (stance, grip, swing, etc).

Notes:

- Please listen to these points so that you can re-enforce them.
 - NOTE: each group is different so please listen carefully (eg - Grade 2's we typically don't worry about grip and just celebrate hitting the ball. BUT Grade 3's know that if they are right handed then their right hand is on the bottom of their grip).
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- Carrie will put the kids into groups with the Sawmill Volunteer Leaders at the end of the introduction. The preferred ration is 1 Sawmill volunteer with 3 or 4 kids.
- **NOTE:** the kids know I run a "tight ship" in order to keep everyone safe. Please adopt the same philosophy.

Rotate Between 3 Stations (12mins per station)

1. The **PUTTING station** will take place on the practice green at the EAST end of the parking lot.
 - Balls and PUTTERS (left and right hand) will be at the station laying on the grass
 - IMMEDIATELY (and as quickly as possible) size the kids with a putter: ask if they are LEFT or RIGHT (they may not remember from the gym).
 - There are 5 different heights of putters. Do your best to get them the correct size.
 - Show them how to putt by demonstrating
 - Carrie has taught them "tick tock" - the club should swing like the pendulum of an grandfather clock
 - They will play a 5/6 hole putting course (set up for you!)
 - IF you have time start again do the putting course a second time
2. The **CHIPPING station** will take place on the pitch area (near the practice net) at the EAST end of the parking lot
 - Balls and WEDGES will be at the station
 - Size the kids with a wedge: ask if they are LEFT or RIGHT (they may not remember from the gym). There are 5 different heights of wedges. Do your best to get them the correct size.
 - Show them how to chip by demonstrating
 - Carrie has taught them that the ball should "bump and run" (go into the air a little and then roll)
 - The chipping should be done from a short distance unless you find yourself with some kids that have experience and then you can try for a farther flag.
 - **If a kid winds up and does a half/full swing on purpose please call Carrie over to reinforce safety.**
 - At the end of your time at this station get the kids to pick up the balls (we call it Easter Egg Hunt). Leave it set up for the next group of kids.

3. The **DRIVING station** will take place on the range.
- Balls, tees and FAIRWAYS.DRIVERS will be at the station
 - Size the kids with a driver: ask if they are LEFT or RIGHT (they may not remember from the gym). There are 5 different heights of drivers. Do your best to get them the correct size.
 - In the gym the kids learn a pitch shot (half swing). They are VERY eager to drive the ball.
 - Ben/Meg/Jeremy will be on the range to demonstrate a FULL swing to the kids.
 - There will be pylons to indicate a spot. There will be 2 students at every station. Have student A hit 2 balls and then student B hit 2 balls. Be sure that student A is behind the ropes before student B is permitted to pick up the club.
 - Show them how to tee up the ball
 - Let them hit. Please enforce safety.

Farwell (5 mins)

Please bring the kids back to the practice green area where a snack will be provided. We have a chat and talk about what they liked best. They then board the bus.

On behalf of the kids thank you again for volunteering.