



GEORGETOWN COUNTRY CLUB

The Junior Discretionary Program

The Junior Discretionary Program (JDP) is a free certification system offered at Georgetown Country Club to spend some time with a volunteer who will assess his or her ability to golf without adult supervision. Successful completions results in a JDP certificate. The Program is open to youth members who are 10-14 years old. After the age of 14 youths are allowed to golf on their own. The Program is not open to non-members and non-member youths cannot golf without adult golf supervision even if they are with a youth member who has passed the Program and received his or her certificate. The Program does not take the place of lessons or time on the course spent with a parent, guardian or another adult golfer. It is also not a test of rules, though knowledge of basic rules is expected and some are covered in the Program.

JDP appointments will take between 75-120 minutes a piece depending upon the number and skill level of the youth golfers who sign up.

Three Focus Areas: Safety, Etiquette, Pace of Play

Safety, etiquette and pace of play are the three focus areas of the Program. The instructors' desire is to reinforce how youth golfers can keep themselves and others safe while respecting the course and other golfers. Such things as weather policy, proper place when others are hitting, sand trap and greens maintenance, what to bring to the course and the general expectations of a Junior Golfer are covered, among other things.

Lessons

Georgetown Country Club offers lessons through the club pro. Miles of Golf and other locations in and around Ann Arbor offer them as well. Junior Golfers are encouraged to get lessons. You can also ask the JDP instructor if he or she has any recommendations.

What to Expect and What to Bring

The JDP consists of some brief introductions and explanation of what will happen, playing two to three holes with continued instruction and then a short written test. Junior Golfers are expected to get 90% on the written test and are also expected to demonstrate the basic concepts of safety, etiquette and pace of play. Skill level is not specifically judged but if it negatively impacts pace of play it may result in the Junior Golfer and his or her parents being asked to get some lessons and come back for another attempt. Junior Golfers should bring their clubs, ball markers, green repair tool, balls and tees, and should be dressed appropriately. This includes pants or shorts with pockets, golf or tennis shoes and collared or t-shirt. Please no tank tops, bathing suits, flip flops, etc. They should also bring a water bottle and sun screen if the weather calls for it.



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Process

Contact the Pro Shop to sign up and please be there on time. Cancellations should be called in 24 hours in advance. No shows will not be allowed to sign up again for a month. The JDP instructors are all volunteers who do this because of their love of the game and to make Georgetown Country Club a better place. Today's families have a lot of commitments so the instructors try to offer a variety of times but as spring turns into summer available times may shrink.

Questions, Comments and Recommendations

If the Pro Shop staff cannot answer your questions, you can contact Brian Fitzgerald at aafitz@sbcglobal.net or (734) 971-8541. Email is recommended. If you are an adult who is willing to serve as an instructor, contact him to find out more information.

Golf can be an enjoyable lifetime sport and the JDP instructors try to emphasize this during the process. Many local golfers who found success in high school and college started at Georgetown Country Club.

While parental involvement is not necessary, this is definitely a sport parents can enjoy with their children. Parents can accompany their son and daughter on the JDP playing portion.