



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date 7/2/08

Contact: George Maxe

(408) 288-2937

LOCAL TEEN TO ATTEND THE FIRST TEE LIFE SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Kansas State University to host academy that promotes character education

San Jose, California –Kirsten Fernandez, age 16, from The First Tee of San Jose, has been selected to attend The First Tee Life Skills and Leadership Academy in Manhattan, KS. The academy takes place July 8-15 at Colbert Hills Golf Course and Kansas State University. Kirsten (Archbishop Mitty High School) was selected from over 100 teenagers, ages 13-17, from The First Tee golf learning facilities around the world to participate in the academy experience.

“We are thrilled to have Kirsten Fernandez represent The First Tee of San Jose at the 2009 Leadership Academy in Manhattan, Kansas,” said George Maxe, Executive Director of The First Tee of San Jose. “As an Eagle level participant, a Volunteer Coach and a Golf Team Member, Kirsten is a committed member of the program. On behalf of The First Tee staff, volunteers, and participants, we would like to congratulate Kirsten for her continued efforts as a participant of The First Tee of San Jose.”

The purpose of the academy is to provide The First Tee participants with valuable character education and leadership instruction through The First Tee Life Skills Education curriculum and Kansas State’s Leadership Studies Program. The sessions feature workshops, career exploration seminars, and golf clinics. Forty coaches will be on-hand to provide life skills and golf lessons.

The theme of this year’s academy is SuperSTAR for Life. Each day, participants will learn about various life skills such as self-management, planning and decision-making, interpersonal skills, and helping others. Participants learn about themselves and others during this rewarding experience. Many of the young people that attend have never flown on an airplane or traveled to another state. Most have never been away from home and on their own for a week.

The First Tee Life Skills and Leadership Academy, recognizes and rewards exceptional youth for their accomplishments and teaches them important mentoring skills they practice at their local Chapter.

About The First Tee

The First Tee (www.thefirsttee.org) is an initiative of the World Golf Foundation, a

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in St. Augustine, FL at World Golf Village, home of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Its mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf. Since its inception in 1997, The First Tee has introduced the game of golf and its values to more than 2.2 million participants and students in 48 states and four international locations – Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and Singapore. Former President George Bush serves as honorary chairman.

###