

For Immediate Release
coaches@uskidsgolf.com



MICHELLE **GRAFOS**

Esmeralda Golf Course
Spokane, WA

Grafos named Top 50 Kids Coach by U.S. Kids Golf

Peachtree Corners, Ga. – Michelle Grafos, from Esmeralda Golf Course, located in Spokane, WA, has been honored as a Top 50 Kids Coach by U.S. Kids Golf, the world’s leading organization in developing young golfers. The Award recognizes coaches who have excelled in developing players, fostering a positive environment, and using the best available resources to help advance their students.

The Top 50 Kids Coaches of 2022 includes golf professionals from 29 states, and six international countries.

“We are proud to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of these coaches,” says Dan Van Horn, President and Founder of U.S. Kids Golf. “Their dedication and commitment to the game, and more importantly, their students, is a great benefit to the facilities they represent, the families they serve, and especially, the young players who are starting this lifetime journey of golf.”

Since 2004, the U.S. Kids Golf Top 50 Kids Coach award, is widely recognized as the pinnacle achievement for junior golf coaches worldwide. Candidates are evaluated by a selection committee from among the Certified Coach candidates based on a variety of factors. These include innovation, creativity, retention, communications, parental engagement, organization, and the ability to instill a passion for the game in young golfers.

Grafos, will be recognized at a special presentation held at the PGA Show in Orlando.

About U.S. Kids Golf

U.S. Kids Golf is the world’s leading organization for helping grow golf among youth and families. Founded in 1996, U.S. Kids Golf offers equipment in three distinct lines of clubs in up to 10 sizes. The U.S. Kids Foundation hosts more than 1600 tournaments globally – including the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship held annually in Pinehurst, N.C.; and its Coaches Institute includes over 1800 members around the world. The Foundation also owns and operates Longleaf Golf & Family Club in Southern Pines, N.C., a “Living Laboratory” of golf’s best practices and newest ideas to make golf a better game for everyone. In both 2018 and 2020, U.S. Kids Golf was recognized by the National Golf Foundation as one of the “Top 100 Businesses in Golf” based on influence, innovation, and social good among other criteria.

(List of Top 50 Award recipients continued on next page)

Top 50 Kids Coaches – Class of 2022

Allie Andersen... Spring, Texas
Jacob Baird... Owasso, Okla.
Tim Bakker... Missoula, Mont.
Mia Bartolotta... Coral Gables, Fla.
Drew Belt... Belden, Miss.
Jonathan Botelho... Middleton, Mass.
Lee Bromley... Cardiff, U.K.
Matt Brown... Fort Smith, Ark.
Brian Burgwyn... Cary, N.C.
Daniel Byrd... Clemmons, N.C.
Evie Carter... Leicestershire, U.K.
Maria Paola Casati... Selvazzano Dentro, Italy
John Dipollina... Middlefield, Conn.
Kellie Edelblut... Southern Pines, N.C.
Brock Elder... Greensboro, N.C.
Sean English... Baltimore, Md.
Vanessa Fassler... Lakewood Ranch, Fla.
Tim Fraley... Bend, Ore.
Darren Game... Bourne, U.K.
Michelle Grafos... Spokane, Wash.
James Hanson... Brighton, Mich.
Laura Holmes-Landon... Virginia Beach, Va.
T.J. King... Fairhope, Ala.
Collins Kipkurui... Nairobi, Kenya
Aaron Koerner... Boise, Idaho

Taylor Lambertsen-Slocum... Chicago, Ill.
Kenneth Leech... Boca Raton, Fla.
Connor Luke... Atlanta, Ga.
Eugene Marais... Ecopark, Vietnam
Paul Maurer... Elkridge, Md.
Joe McNeil... Lacoste, Texas
Chris Meade... Fredericksburg, Texas
Daniel Murphy... Lutherville, Md.
Kelli Murphy... Auburn, Ala.
Zachary Newell... Key Biscayne, Fla.
John Pallot... Coral Gables, Fla.
Eric Poon... Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Juli Roberts... Oviedo, Fla.
Eva Rogers... Medinah, Ill.
Pamela Saladino... Beloit, Wis.
John Schmoll... Greenwich, Conn.
Suzy Smith... Diamondhead, Miss.
Erik Sorensen... Newbury, Mass.
Kim Stevens... Union City, Calif.
Sean Stewart... Orlando, Fla.
Evan Teplitsky... Klagenfurt, Austria
Kyley Tetley... Broken Arrow, Okla.
Monique Thoresz... Westchester, N.Y.
Jacob Tilton... Atlanta, Ga.
Chris Yoder... Columbus, Ohio

Master Kids Coaches – Class of 2022

O.J. Amaya... Bonita, Calif.
Cole Baker... Bismarck, N.D.
Matt Clinger... Spring Hill, Tenn.
Nix Duncan... Roswell, Ga.
Matt Eschenburg... Spring, Texas
Adam Fangman... Union, Ky.
Neil Gowan... Mount Pleasant, S.C.
Blake Isakson... Phoenix, Ariz.
Preston Johnson... Charleston, S.C.

Denise Kafferly... Niceville, Fla.
Don Kueper... Carlyle, Ill.
Brad Lawrence... Ancaster, Ontario
Jimmy McMullen... Clemmons, N.C.
Tara Morris... Castle Rock, Colo.
Miriam Piland-Rice... Lake Mary, Fla.
John Rudolph... Greenville, Del.
Andrew Spaulding... North Prairie, Wis.
Shelby Thibodeaux... Spring, Texas

Connect with U.S. Kids Golf:

Website: www.uskidsgolf.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/USKidsGolf

Twitter: www.twitter.com/USKidsGolf

Instagram: www.instagram.com/u.s.kidsgolf/

###