

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MICHELLE GRAFOS

Esmeralda Golf Course
Spokane, WA



Spokane's Grafos Named Master Kids Coach by U.S. Kids Golf

Peachtree Corners, Ga. – Michelle Grafos, from Esmeralda Golf Course, located in Spokane, Wash., has been honored as a Master 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.

In 2008, U.S. Kids Golf introduced the Master Kids Coach Award which honors those who have been awarded the Top 50 Kids Coach Award three times. Grafos joins the elite list of 245 Master Kids Coaches along with 19 others who are being recognized this year.

"Becoming a Master Kids Coach is the highest distinction for kids coaches," noted Van Horn. "These are the professionals that have dedicated a career to youth golf and families, consistent excellence, which is not easy, and truly embody the spirit of the U.S. Kids Golf mission."

Presented since 2004, the U.S. Kids Golf Top 50 Coach award, is widely recognized as the pinnacle achievement for junior golf coaches worldwide. Award recipients are chosen based on their contributions to youth golf in their community. These contributions include but are not limited to coaching players ages 12 and under, use of the Player Pathway in advancing their players, creativity, engagement with parents, organization, experience, and the ability to instill a passion for the game in young golfers.

Award recipients 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)

Master Kids Coaches – Class of 2023

Allie Andersen	Spring, Texas	Eugene Marais	Vietnam
Lee Bromley	Cardiff, U.K.	Paul Maurer	Columbia, Md.
Brian Burgwyn	Cary, N.C.	Chris Meade	Fredericksburg, Texas
Daniel Byrd	Clemmons, N.C.	Pamela Saladino	Beloit, Wis.
Brittany Ferrante	Tequesta, Fla.	Hoppy Smith	Diamondhead, Miss.
Michelle Grafos	Spokane, Wash.	Erik Sorensen	Newbury, Mass.
James Hanson	Brighton, Mich.	Kyley Tetley	Broken Arrow, Okla.
Laura Holmes-Landon	Virginia Beach, Va.	Monique Thoresz	Scarsdale, N.Y.
Taylor Lambertsen	Chicago, Ill.	Chris Yoder	Columbus, Ohio
Kenneth Leech	Boca Raton, Fla.		

Top 50 Kids Coaches – Class of 2023

Bridget Ackley	West Palm Beach, Fla.	Bill Hall	Beaufort , S.C.
Heather Angell	Fort Myers, Fla.	Dakota Hicks	Duncan, Okla.
Sharon Barley	Lancaster, Penn.	Noah Horstman	Medford, Ore.
Jimmy Bayne	High Point, N.C.	Megan Johnston	Winter Garden, Fla.
Ryan Benton	Dothan, Ala.	Paul Killgallon	Birmingham, Ala.
Barbara Borin	Barba, Italy	Stephanie Kolbas	Eagle, Neb.
Matt Brown	Fort Sill, Okla.	Katie Manlolo	Kapolei, Hawaii
Ginger Brown Lemm	Spring, Texas	Mack McConaha	Dublin , Ohio
Vincent Burbank	Winter Garden, Fla.	Chad Moscovic	Frisco, Texas
Gavin Burns	Lexington, Ky.	Kelli Murphy	Auburn, Ala.
Kipkurui Collins	Kericho , Kenya	Carly Newman	St. James, N.Y.
Terrence Crimmins	Wellesley, Mass.	Eric Poon	Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Kellie Edelblut	Southern Pines, N.C.	Joseph Portfilio	Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Sean English	Baltimore	Tim Ritter	Potomac, Md.
Vanessa Fassler	Lakewood Ranch , Fla.	Orlando Rodriguez	Atlanta
Gavin Forsyth	Staining , U.K.	Matthew Rueb	Bismarck, N.D.
Travis Fowler	Chingford, U.K.	Abigale Schepperle	Roswell, Ga.
Tim Fraley	Bend, Ore.	John Schmoll	Greenwich, Conn.
Robbie Fritz	Greensboro, N.C.	Jonathan Shoffner	Kingwood, Texas
Darren Game	Stamford, U.K.	Julieta Stack	Lutherville Timonium, Md.
Andrew Gerlach	Hilton Head, S.C.	Sara Stephens	Burlington, Ky.
Jerrel Gill	Coral Gables, Fla.	Sean Stewart	Orlando
Olivier Gilmartin	Miami,	Nazeer Tajudeen	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Travis Glass	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Jacob Tilton	Atlanta
Gavin Grenville-Wood	Elstree, U.K.	Gregory Wright	Middleton, Mass.

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