



Scholars Class of 2017

In 2017, the Karl G. Estes Scholarship was awarded to the following Scholars of The First Tee of North Florida:

Austin Evans - \$5,000

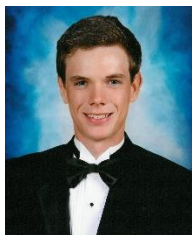


Austin Evans graduated from Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, Florida in May 2017. He plans to attend Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida in the fall of 2017. Austin is an avid golfer and played with Stanton's golf team beginning as a freshman and finished out his senior year on the team at the State Regional tournament. Austin was captain of the golf team his junior and senior years and played in the State championship in 2016. He has played tournament golf since he was a freshman, but he was introduced to game a young age and participated in The First Tee Program at Brentwood Golf Course since 2012. Austin credits The First Tee Program with stirring his interest in golf. He not only learned golf skills, but learned life skills that are transferable to others areas in his life. One of his most rewarding activities is teaching younger kids every Saturday at First Tee.

In addition to golf, Austin participated in sports since he first played soccer, basketball and baseball in elementary school and continued to play through middle school. He plays Ultimate Frisbee in a local league and spends much of his free time working out, running, skim-boarding and taking long bike rides. He also works and coaches in The First Tee Program.

Other activities that Austin participated in include Boy Scouts and volunteer programs, such as the Safe Routes to School initiative, which focused on walking and biking safety in his community. Austin is interested in studying criminal justice in college and hopes one day to work in this field as he continues to pursue and improve his game of golf.

David Dendler - \$5,000



David Dendler claims St. Augustine, Florida as his home town where he attended Pedro Menendez throughout his high school career. At Menendez, David was enrolled in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. Also while at Pedro, David has logged over 2,000 hours of varsity golf and has also lettered all four years. He spent the last two years of his high school career as Team Captain, leading the team to a 24-4 record. In addition, David competes regularly in competitive junior golf tournaments throughout the state.

He is an active participant of The First Tee (Birdie level), a student-intern at Anastasia Baptist Church, and a member of Link Crew. His favorite Core Values are confidence and perseverance as "Confidence is what inspires us keep running with endurance and perseverance provides us with the internal



motivation to accomplish extraordinary dreams". While not studying or playing golf, David regularly has spent the past five years volunteering throughout the community.

In the fall, David plans to attend University of North Florida where he will major in political science.

John Paul Garrido - \$5,000



John Paul Garrido graduated with Honors (Cum Laude) from Bishop John J. Snyder High School in Jacksonville, Florida in May 2017.

JP had the honor to lead the Varsity Golf Team as Captain and MVP for his Junior and Senior years. An active participant of The First Tee at the Eagle level, JP won numerous tournaments through The First Tee and other competitive golf tours locally. His hobbies outside of golf include watching YouTube instructional videos and old tournament footage of players such as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Seve Ballestros.

JP plans to attend University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida fall of 2017. He will go into the Civil Engineering program and keep playing golf with hopes of potentially walking on to the UNF Golf Team.

Stephanie Pulido - \$5,000



Stephanie Pulido graduated from St. Joseph Academy with Magna Cum Laude, due to her dedication to schoolwork and extracurricular. She is a member of Spanish Honor Society and thanks her Cuban background for the influence. She maintained Honor Roll all throughout high school and earned the title that every little girl dreams of- Prom Queen.

She joined her high school golf team freshman year with hesitancy, considering it was an all-boys golf team. Four years passed and she earned the team captain title and made her way to regionals every year in between.

Logging over 400 community service hours, Stephanie lives her life with the Golden Rule as her primary motto. From assisting the elderly at the Center of Council on Aging, and guiding youth at The First Tee of North Florida, volunteer work has been an avid part of her journey. Most recently, she spent every weekend for six months this year preparing a retreat at her parish for high schoolers wishing to grow in their Christian faith.

Her success in her academic and athletic career could not have been made possible without The First Tee of North Florida. She enrolled in this program at the very beginning of middle school with only limited knowledge on the game of golf nearly seven years ago. While struggling with a lack in confidence and withdrawing from school work at this young of an age, The First Tee quickly taught her values she would use the rest of her life and tactics to succeed.

Stephanie currently serves The First Tee of North Florida as a coach at Palm Valley summer camps. She will be taking her studies to the next level at Flagler College in the fall with golf as an outlet to her future career with the PGA Headquarters or Golf Channel.