

## Plan Your Excursion

You've connected with a local school and you have a date confirmed for your First Green excursion. Now it's time to start planning what to do with the students once they arrive at your golf course. We've provided a checklist to help you stay on track and sample agendas from previous excursions. The sample agendas are a good way to see how each superintendent puts their own stamp on the excursion. We encourage you to do the same! Here's a few things to consider before you begin.

### Lesson Plans/Learning Stations

We've included all 11 formal lesson plans in this guide. If possible, consult the teacher as you decide which learning stations to include in the excursion. Feel free to use your imagination and go outside the prepared plans in this guide. What does your golf course offer that would be of interest to young minds? Do you have native plants? Do you have beehives? Any bird, owl, eagle nesting boxes? Here's your chance to highlight the great work you and your crew do on your course!

While there is no "required" content to First Green the following stations are great for beginners due to the ease of implementing them, and the content is applicable to students of all ages.

- Soils
- Math – Area calculations
- Water Quality
- Putting Contest/Fun Golf activity

### Logistics

A typical excursion has 40-50 students and four (4) stations. A key to STEM learning and First Green is the opportunity to let the kids actively participate with the learning stations. This means the students need to be broken down into groups of 10 – 12. Each group will rotate between stations every 20 minutes. Think through where to place each station on your golf course – can the students walk easily between stations in 5 minutes? Is there a bathroom nearby? Here's a few more tips:

- Learning Stations – Share the lesson plans with the teacher. Work with him/her to determine what topics to cover. Offer to take the teacher on a tour of your golf course – this can help both of you brainstorm ideas for the excursion.
- Supplies – Each lesson plan has a complete list of needed supplies included in it. Most superintendents have the required items readily available at their golf course. If you need help in sourcing an item – reach out to ASTMA for assistance.
- Volunteers – who will lead each of your stations? A best practice is to have two volunteers for each station. This makes the time enjoyable for your volunteer and takes the pressure off one individual having to lead each station. Recruit volunteers from your staff, your fellow superintendents, or your local sales reps. For instance, are you having a station that highlights water conservation? Invite your local irrigation sales representative to lead the station on the irrigation system.

- Working With Children Check – The ASTMA recommends as per the Australian Government website(s) that any person working with children under the age of 18 obtain a Working With Children Check. Visit the ACIC website for more information [www.acic.gov.au/services/national-police-checking-service/find-out-more-information/working-children-checks](http://www.acic.gov.au/services/national-police-checking-service/find-out-more-information/working-children-checks)
- Host Superintendent – The host superintendent should act as a facilitator and timekeeper. He/she will be able to ensure the excursion is running in a timely, smooth manner.
- Transportation – the school you are working with will utilise their bus company to transport to/from your golf course.
- Lunch/Snacks – Most excursions occur in the morning and take anywhere from 90 minutes to 2 hours. If your facility would like to host a lunch for the kids, parents and teachers feel free to do so. Some schools have the kids bring their own lunches and picnic at the golf course. This is a great opportunity to continue to network with the teachers, parents and students.
- Photo Permission – if you are planning to take pictures of the participants make sure to ask the teacher(s) if any of the children are not allowed to have their picture taken. With the increased scrutiny regarding protecting privacy, it is important that you follow appropriate protocol when interacting with minor children. Most public and private schools will have photo/video permission waivers on file for their students. If they do not, there is a photo permission form available on the First Green website.

This isn't an exhaustive list items to consider. The following checklist and sample agendas will hopefully help you feel confident as you plan your excursion. You are encouraged to reach out to ASTMA for additional tips.

#### How ASTMA can help

ASTMA encourages you to reach out to your local field staff after you've confirmed your excursion. The field staff have all participated in First Green excursions and would be happy to help with advice, best practices and if their schedule allows attend your excursion.