



SOUTHWEST PGA PROCLAMATION

May 7, 2025

WHEREAS, established in 1994 the mission of the Southwest PGA Foundation is to utilize the game of golf as a “vehicle” for our member professionals to positively impact the lives of youths, military veterans, minorities, at-risk families, and individuals within the communities we serve. Since inception, the Southwest PGA Foundation has provided more than \$2.2 million in IMPACT to local charities across the State of Arizona.

WHEREAS, the Southwest PGA Hope Program introduces golf to veterans and active-duty military personnel (at no charge to veterans) to enhance their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. The six-week curriculum is led by PGA professionals trained in adaptive golf and military culture. At the present time over 60 programs will be conducted in 2025 with program impact of over 750 veterans.

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics Youth State & Regional Golf Championship(s) supports youth (ages 13-18) with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) through the game of golf. It fosters improved social skills, promotes inclusion, and builds camaraderie among participants and coaches. In 2024 over 1,000 athletes competed in various events conducted and administered by PGA professionals.

WHEREAS, the Birdies for Good flagship fundraising program by PGA professionals provides critical support to families at Ronald McDonald Houses, across the State of Arizona and Clark County Nevada, allowing them to stay close during medical treatment. In 2024, the program helped fund more than 1,800 nights of comfort for families in need. This amazing fundraising event further supports a variety of other community needs throughout the State and Clark Country, Nevada.

WHEREAS, the Junior Golf Programs and Scholarships foundation supports programs like PGA Jr. League and Drive, Chip & Putt, as well as a scholarship program that assists families of Southwest Section members, junior golfers from the JGAA, and other youth organizations. Since 2011 the Foundation has awarded over \$193K in scholarships to aspiring future leaders in Arizona and beyond. 2025 sees an expansion of this support as a sponsor of the upcoming Girls Junior America’s Cup in Scottsdale.

WHEREAS, the impact of Golf in Arizona is as follows: 16.6 million Rounds of golf played each year, six billion dollars of economic impact generated by the golf industry in Arizona, more than 200K kids

learn the life changing lessons of the game of golf annually, and Golf Operations account for a mere 2% of all water use in Arizona.

THEREFORE, I, Senator TJ Shope, invite the members of the Arizona Senate to join me in expressing our sincere gratitude to the Southwest PGA Foundation in growing and expanding its reach into the hearts, minds, and soul of our communities. It serves as a powerful reminder of the therapeutic, holistic, and genuine respect the game has to offer. Whether you're a beginner, a seasoned veteran, junior, teacher, aspiring leader or political figure, the game of golf is for everyone. The Southwest PGA Foundation is the ONLY organization led by PGA professionals and veterans whose sole purpose is to serve the community.