



## **First Green**

*Environmental Education  
Using Links As Labs*



### **First Green Receives Grant from Evergreen Chapter of Club Managers Association of America**

In November, First Green was very pleased to be invited to the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) – Evergreen Chapter -- annual meeting to meet with the club managers and receive a \$1000 donation. The CMAA Evergreen chapter actively encourages First Green programs at the clubs and is a supporter of First Green's mission. In early 2014, First Green will present an educational program on hosting field trips at one of the monthly CMAA meetings. Club manager support for field trips means that the golf course superintendent has more support, the club members are informed and included, and the resources of the club are fully marshaled for the field trip.

Photos from the November 14 event will be on our website in January. Plan to check the website then.

### **New Videos Available on the Website**

As part of our 2013 [USGA grant](#), we just created and launched two new videos. One is a general introduction to First Green, and the second addresses how to host a field trip. The videos help tell the First Green story, and also make golf course superintendents more comfortable with hosting their first field trip.

The videos were professionally produced over the summer by a team from Northwest Golf Media Association with coordination by Jeff Shelley, First Green board president. The production was funded with the USGA grant. If you are a teacher, show them to your principal and teaching peers. If you are a golf course superintendent, please show them to your club manager and club members. They tell the First Green story with considerable energy and excitement.

Take a look at our home page ([www.thefirstgreen.org](http://www.thefirstgreen.org)) and watch both videos.

### **New Field Trip Lesson Plans on Website**

First Green has developed a set of new core STEM\* lesson plans that are adaptable for

students of different grade levels. Three ***Math on the Golf Course*** lessons and lessons on ***Soils*** and ***Water*** are now available on the First Green [website](#). They were developed to dovetail with the resources in the superintendent field trip kit. The lesson plan activities have been part of many field trips over the past three years—many of you have already been involved in either doing the learning labs or seeing your students participate in them.

The plans give golf course superintendents step-by-step guidance for ease of use. And, teachers can see what will take place in the learning labs. In addition to the core lesson plans, you will see activity outlines on other topics such as ***Golf and the Environment***, ***Golf Course Operations***, ***Plants and the Environment*** and ***Wildlife and Habitat Management***. Some teachers create additional questions for their students related to the learning labs and share these with the golf course superintendent in advance of the field trip. The goal is make hosting field trips an enjoyable activity for the golf course and the school.

### School/Golf Course Connections

A total of 56 teachers signed in at First Green workshops and events this year to request connections to golf courses in their local areas. We have contacted the golf course superintendents and now are ready to email out the information. Teachers, look for those emails by mid-January so there is time for teachers to meet with the golf course superintendent and plan the field trip that will be scheduled for next spring.

If you are a teacher already matched with a golf course, don't let time get away from you. When you return to school in January, please reach out to your local golf course superintendent to schedule your spring field trips. Teachers and golf course superintendents - please let us know when you've scheduled your field trips so we can add them to our [calendar](#) and send a special package with handouts for the students – including colorful bookmarks.

In addition, by letting First Green know of your plans ahead of time, we can get a jump on drafting a press release about the field trip, so your local community will know which class and teacher visited which course.

If you can't find the contact information previously provided to you, [let us know](#) and we'll put you back in touch with your golf course or your teacher.

[Contact us](#) with your field trip date(s). Find a local golf course and [sign up for a field trip](#).

### Upcoming Events

First Green will be in San Francisco on December 13 to present a workshop for CourseCo superintendents in Northern California at Crystal Springs Golf Club in

Burlingame.

Washington Turf and Landscape Show Trade Show is December 17 at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Wash. If you are attending the show, we'll be in booth 34. Please stop by to say hello and talk about your spring 2014 field trip.

First Green launch presentation at Utah GCSAA Winter Meeting on January 16 in Provo. They're ready to start First Green field trips in Utah.

### **What is First Green?**

First Green is an innovative environmental education outreach program using golf courses as environmental learning labs. Golf course superintendents and/or local golf course representatives host students on field trips where they test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, design plantings, assist in stream bed restoration and are involved in the ecology and environmental aspects of the golf course. The students are also introduced to many other aspects of golf.

### **Sign Up for our Newsletter**

If you received this newsletter from a friend or colleague, please consider [signing up](#) to receive your own copy. It's easy!

### **New to First Green?**

You are welcome to observe a field trip. If you are a teacher, you may want to observe a field trip and then schedule your own field trip. Look at our [calendar](#) for upcoming field trips in your area. Or, [contact us](#) if you don't see one in your area or if you'd like to speak with a teacher who has been on a First Green field trip.

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### **Please "Like" Us**

For quick updates on our activities, please visit our Facebook page and "like" us – <http://facebook.com/thefirstgreen>. You can also follow us on Twitter – <http://twitter.com/thefirstgreen>.

Regards,

First Green Foundation  
12440 Main Street  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
Phone: (425) 444-2618  
<http://www.thefirstgreen.org>

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