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**Estes Park Golf Course to host Innovative, Educational First Green Event for Estes Park Elementary School Students, September 7**

*Students will get hands-on educational opportunities from golf course superintendents*

**Lawrence, Kan. (September 5, 2023) –** Estes Park Golf Course will host an innovative environmental education outreach program that uses golf courses as environmental learning labs, when course superintendent John Feeney, welcomes students from Estes Park Elementary for a GCSAA First Green event, Thursday, September 7.

First Green is a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) program which focuses on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) principles where students get hands-on learning opportunities in a real-life setting. GCSAA First Green curriculum benefits students by helping them apply their classroom knowledge in an engaging outdoor setting.

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 7, 9:15 a.m.-Noon

WHERE: Estes Park Golf Course practice green, 1480 Golf Course Road, Estes Park, Colo.

WHO: 56 students from Estes Park Elementary School, who will learn from GCSAA superintendent John Feeney and others. Feeney is a 24-year member of GCSAA.

WHAT: An interactive, highly engaging field trip that provides hands-on learning and exposes students to the golf industry. Benefits of First Green include applying lessons learned in class, inspiring students, building community, strengthening futures, advancing golf and having fun.

The 56 students will arrive by 9:15 a.m. at Estes Park Golf Course. Students will rotate through stations including Math on the Course, Cool Tools, Compost, and Putting with the Pro before eating lunch at the maintenance facility and departing around noon.

Media are encouraged to attend the event and should contact Feeney at (email address)

or (phone number) prior to the field trip.

To learn more about GCSAA First Green visit [www.TheFirstGreen.org](http://www.TheFirstGreen.org)

First Green is a program of the GCSAA Foundation, which is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA. Its mission is to secure funding and support to strengthen advocacy, education, and research that advances the work of golf course management professionals. Visit the Foundation at [www.gcsaa.org/foundation](http://www.gcsaa.org/foundation).

Estes Park Golf Course sits at the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park. This location creates unique challenges for the maintenance staff. Estes Park is home to about 500 head of elk. In addition to repairing elk damage on the greens, fairways, etc… the staff is responsible for collecting and removing the “organic debris” the elk leave behind. This is now a large part of a compost operation. The nutrient rich topsoil is a valuable commodity, and the course is now able to produce compost from what used to be hauled off to the landfill.

**About GCSAA**

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is a leading golf organization in the United States. Its focus is on golf course management, and since 1926 GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the U.S. and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 19,000 members in more than 78 countries. The association’s mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GCSAAFB) or [Twitter](https://twitter.com/gcsaa). Visit our industry-leading magazine at [GCMonline.com](http://www.gcmonline.com).

The GCSAA Foundation is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA. Its mission is to secure funding and support to strengthen advocacy, education, and research that advances the work of golf course management professionals. Visit the Foundation at [www.gcsaa.org/foundation](http://www.gcsaa.org/foundation).