

La Academia de Golf Tom Sager busca enseñar lecciones de vida a través del golf

Tom Sager era un apasionado del golf. Creía que era una buena manera de aprender a lidiar con la frustración, a obtener disciplina y a fomentar relaciones. Este verano, ocho niños y niñas de las YMCA de Lawrence y Methuen tendrán la oportunidad de aprender esas habilidades mientras participan en la Academia de Golf Tom Sager.

Esta empresa conjunta de Merrimack Valley YMCA, Renaissance Golf Club y Sager Family Trust se inició en 2011 en memoria de Sager, un ávido golfista que falleció en 2009. Su esposa, Barbara Sager, dice que espera que la experiencia tenga un efecto positivo por el resto de sus vidas en los niños.

Los participantes de este año son Dylan Cavanaugh de 12 años, Ezekiel Andino de 11 años, Isaiah Andino de 13 años, Zachary Vermette de 13 años, Zachary Merlina de 13 años, Khimora Estevez de 13 años, Misha Torres de 11 años Edwin Durran.

Durante un desayuno para comenzar la temporada, Barbara Sager les contó a los niños cómo su esposo le pidió prestado un juego de clubes a su abuelo cuando era un niño y aprendió a jugar golf en el campo de golf público al otro lado de la calle de su casa. Ella les dijo que él estaría feliz de saber que tienen la oportunidad de aprender el juego que le encantó y las lecciones de vida que lo acompañan.

El Director de Operaciones de Merrimack Valley YMCA, Frank Kenneally,

felicitó a los niños por ganarse un lugar en esta academia y les aconsejó que aprovechen la oportunidad para aprender golf, aprender liderazgo y aprender todo lo que puedan sobre ellos mismos.

Estos muchachos asistirán a la academia dos veces por semana durante el mes de julio, aprendiendo la mecánica y las reglas del juego de los profesionales del golf, utilizando el equipo que les proporciona el programa. Los entrenadores de la YMCA de Merrimack Valley también ayudarán con el programa. Además de las lecciones de golf, los niños tendrán la oportunidad de almorzar, nadar en la piscina y hacer excursiones en un carrito de golf con la Sra. Sager.

Con su sede central en Lawrence, Massachusetts, ubicada en el corazón de Merrimack Valley, el YMCA de Merrimack Valley está representado por el YMCA de Andover/North Andover, el YMCA de Lawrence, el YMCA de Methuen, el Camp Lawrence y el Camp Nokomis en el Lago Winnepesaukee, así como Day Camp Otter en Salem, New Hampshire. Cada una de estas sucursales y campamentos atienden las necesidades de comunidades distintas y únicas, lo que convierte a Merrimack Valley YMCA en una organización rica en diversidad cultural, social y económica. A través de programas, servicios, voluntarios y personal de calidad, el YMCA de Merrimack Valley trabaja constantemente para ayudar a que todos puedan tener vidas más sanas.



Tom Sager Golf Academy Seeks to Teach Life Lessons through Golf

Tom Sager was passionate about golf. He believed it was a good way to learn how to deal with frustration, to gain discipline, and to build relationships. This summer, eight boys and girls from the Lawrence and Methuen YMCAs will get the chance to learn those skills while participating in the Tom Sager Golf Academy.

This joint venture of the Merrimack Valley YMCA, Renaissance Golf Club, and the Sager Family Trust was started in 2011 in memory of Sager, an avid golfer who passed away in 2009. His wife, Barbara Sager says she hopes the experience will have a positive, lifelong effect on the kids.

This year's participants are 12 year old Dylan Cavanaugh, 11 year old Ezekiel Andino, 13 year old Isaiah Andino, 13 year old Zachary Vermette, 13 year old Zachary Merlina, 11 year old Khimora Estevez, 13 year old Misha Torres, and 11 year old Edwin Durran.

During a breakfast held to kick off the season, Barbara Sager told the children how her husband borrowed a set of clubs from his grandfather when he was a boy and learned to play golf on the public golf course across the street from his house. She told them he would be happy to know they are getting the chance to learn the game he loved and the life lessons that go with it.

Merrimack Valley YMCA Chief Operating Officer Frank Kenneally

congratulated the kids for earning a place in this academy and advised them to take advantage of the opportunity to learn golf, learn leadership, and learn as much as they can about themselves.

The children will attend the academy twice a week throughout the month of July – learning the mechanics and the rules of the game from golf pros, using equipment provided to them by the program. Coaches from the Merrimack Valley YMCA will also help out with the program. In addition to the golf lessons, the children will have the opportunity to eat lunch, swim in the pool, and take tours on a golf cart with Mrs. Sager.

With its headquarters located in Lawrence, Massachusetts, nestled in the heart of the Merrimack Valley, the Merrimack Valley YMCA is represented by the Andover/North Andover YMCA, the Lawrence YMCA, the Methuen YMCA, Camp Lawrence and Camp Nokomis on Lake Winnepesaukee, and Day Camp Otter in Salem, New Hampshire. Each of these branches and camps serve the needs of distinct and unique communities, making the Merrimack Valley YMCA an organization rich in cultural, social, and economic diversity. Through quality programs, services, volunteers, and staff, the Merrimack Valley YMCA is constantly working to help make healthier lives achievable for everyone.

Four New England States Have Failed Girls by Not Criminalizing Female Genital Mutilation

New Hampshire and Rhode Island Protect Women and Girls from FGM But Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont Have Yet to Pass Laws

Just two New England states—New Hampshire and Rhode Island—have enacted measures to protect women and girls from the horrors of female genital mutilation (FGM).

The other four—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont—have yet to pass laws to criminalize this barbaric procedure. And that, says the national #EndFGMToday initiative, is a tragedy.

Some New England states have faced chances to end FGM while others have squandered these opportunities.

International child advocate and attorney Elizabeth Yore leads #EndFGMToday and has worked with legislators in many states who want to enact or strengthen FGM criminalization laws. Yore also works with FGM survivors, helping them to tell their stories so that lawmakers will know the full, disturbing impact on women and girls, even decades after this cruel and unnecessary procedure.

Kadi Doumbia is one of the millions of survivors around the world who endured the physical and emotional scars of FGM. The Mali native, who left her country at the age of 18 and has been in the U.S. for about 25 years, has shared her story several times with lawmakers. In fact, she testified in person in front of New Hampshire and Connecticut legislative committees last year.

“When lawmakers hear from an actual victim and survivor of female genital mutilation, the horrors of this practice become very real,” Yore said. “We applaud this brave woman, and others like her, who

are working to make sure that other little girls do not endure the same trauma they did.”

After hearing Doumbia's testimony, New Hampshire lawmakers passed FGM legislation and Gov. Chris Sununu signed it into law a year ago this month. The Rhode Island statute had already been on the books.

Connecticut legislators allowed the FGM criminalization bill to die in the House Public Health Committee. And despite hearing from another FGM survivor, Maine legislators in 2018 also let an FGM bill die in committee. Likewise, the Massachusetts bill has been stalled in committee since January. Vermont's bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare this April, where it has remained. Sixteen states total do not outlaw FGM.

EndFGMToday has asserted many times that state laws criminalizing FGM are all the more crucial now, after a Michigan judge ruled that the federal FGM law was unconstitutional. In the process, serious charges against three alleged FGM perpetrators awaiting trial in Detroit were dismissed. The U.S. government has declined to appeal the decision.

Yore noted that female genital mutilation is recognized by both the World Health Organization and the United Nations as a human rights violation perpetrated upon little girls and women. Over 200 million women worldwide have been subjected to this cruel and barbaric practice. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that 513,000 girls and women are at risk of FGM in the United States.

Youth Writing Workshop

Registrations are now being taken for a Youth Writing Workshop for students in grades 6 through 10. Workshop classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6 PM to 8 PM starting July 10 through August 18 at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, Building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843. The workshops are free for Lawrence residents or \$10 for other towns' residents for each monthly workshop.

By popular demand MVIEC has engaged writing instructor Robert Largess to once again teach this workshop. Fee is \$10 registration for the 6 week course, free for Lawrence residents.

Students interested in improving their writing skills should call MVIEC, The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center at 978-683-7316. Check out the MVIEC's website at www.mviec.org for directions and more details.