

# Golf Course Operations

Golf is a game which was first played in Scotland more than 500 years ago. The game made its way to the United States in the early 1800's and today is enjoyed by more than 30 million Americans. Golf courses are classified into two major categories based on accessibility for golfers. They are either open to the public or accessible through a private membership. The game of golf is growing in popularity, and as a business, contributes substantially to the local economy through employment, taxes, property value improvement and the support of local charities through fund raisers.

In 2016, golf's economic impact in the United States was \$191.9 billion dollars. Within a golf course operation there are usually at least three departments; turfgrass maintenance, food and beverage, and the pro shop operation. Each department is managed by professional trained staff that work together to produce the best possible playing experience for their guests. In fact over 1.9 million jobs in the United States are impacted by the golf industry.

## Student Learning Objectives

- 1. Become familiar with and understand the specific uses of the different equipment used to maintain a golf course.**  
Walking and riding mowers, reel and rotary mowers, bunker rakes, carts and special equipment.
- 2. Identify and investigate the career opportunities available in the golf industry.**  
Golf course design, landscape and maintenance; golf professional, club house management.
- 3. Experience golf through participation in a golfing activity.**  
Become a golfer by hitting golf balls on the driving range or putting green.
- 4. Identify and explain the different playing surfaces that comprise a golf course.**  
Green, tee, fairway, rough, bunker, water hazards and out-of-bounds.
- 5. Gain knowledge of the history and development of the game of golf. Understand the history and development of the local golf course**  
Golf began in Scotland, and came to the U.S. in the early 1800's, local golf course history.



## Field Trip Requirements

- Safe location on the golf course such as the putting green or driving range to facilitate a golfing experience.
- Group will tour clubhouse, pro shop, and golf course maintenance facilities.
- Printed job descriptions and job applications.
- Golf clubs and/or putters, golf balls.
- Rules of golf booklet.

## Field Trip Outline

The golf course superintendent or golf course representative will host a walking tour of the golf course. Stops will be made at the clubhouse, pro shop and maintenance facility. The emphasis of the tour will be to introduce students to the game of golf, introduce available career opportunities, and discuss the financial impact of a golf course within the community. The host will begin with a brief discussion about the history of the golf course and the game of golf. The host will then lead the group on a walking tour of the golf course; pointing out the different playing surfaces such as greens, tees, fairways, roughs, bunkers, water hazards and out-of-bounds. Tell the purpose of each surface, and include some maintenance practices required for each area. Upon arriving at the maintenance facility, show the students the equipment used to maintain the golf course. Allow the students the opportunity to sit on the equipment. Discuss with the students the available careers in the golf course industry and pass out seasonal job applications to all who are interested. Travel to the location where the golfing experience will take place. Before the students are allowed to hit golf balls, discuss safety and etiquette rules. Demonstrate hitting a golf ball for the students, and then allow them to have fun in a safe environment. If possible, design a competition between the students and award prizes (golf balls) to the students.

## Additional Resources

- Textbook titled: Turfgrass Management for Golf Courses by James B. Beard
- Textbook titled: The Rules of Golf printed by the United States Golf Association

