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**LOCAL TEEN TO ATTEND LIFE SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**  
***Kansas State University to host academy that promotes character education***

**Salinas, CA** – Elizabeth Leavitt, age 15, from The First Tee of Monterey County, has been selected to attend The First Tee Life Skills and Leadership Academy in Manhattan, KS. The academy takes place July 13-20 at Kansas State University. Leavitt was among 100 Chapter participants, ages 13-17, selected to participate in the academy experience.

“I’m very proud of Elizabeth and her accomplishments as a participant at our Chapter. Her selection to attend the academy is further testament to her involvement and dedication to the program. Elizabeth’s growth has been tremendous and I’m confident that her experiences at the academy will make her a stronger and more confident teen,” said Barry Phillips, The First Tee of Monterey County executive director.

The purpose of the academy is to provide The First Tee participants with valuable character education and leadership instruction through The First Tee Life Skills Experience curriculum. Highlights of the week include workshops, career exploration seminars, and golf clinics. Twenty-four coaches will be on hand to provide life skills and golf instruction.

The theme of this year’s academy is SuperSTAR for Life. Each day, participants will learn about various life skills such as self-management, planning and decision-making, interpersonal skills, and helping others. Participants learn about themselves and others during this rewarding experience. Many of the young people that attend have never flown on an airplane or traveled to another state. Most have never been away from home and on their own for a week.

The First Tee Life Skills and Leadership Academy recognizes and rewards exceptional youth for their accomplishments and teaches them important mentoring skills they in turn can put into practice at their Chapter.

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**About The First Tee**

The First Tee ([www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org)) is an initiative of the World Golf Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in St. Augustine, FL at World Golf Village, home of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Its mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf. Since its inception in 1997, The First Tee has introduced the game of golf and its values to more than 3.5 million participants in 50 states, over 3,400 elementary schools and five international locations – Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and Singapore. Former President George H. W. Bush serves as honorary chairman. The First Tee Founding Partners are The Masters Tournament, LPGA, PGA of America, PGA TOUR and the USGA.