



## **Getting Started with First Green**

### **Register Your Interest**

The first step in getting started is to register your interest in the program with ASTMA. Please visit <https://www.astma.com.au/education/first-green/host-a-first-green-program/> You will find an online registration form. Or, you can fill out the form included in this book and send it in. First Green helps connect interested schools with golf course superintendents.

### **Connect with a school**

Making a connection with a local school can be a challenge. We've outlined a few tips from experienced excursion hosts. While the tips focus on schools – the actions can easily translate to youth groups such as Scouts.

- Start within your network - do you have any friends, neighbours, family members who work in your school district? Reach out to them. Even if they aren't able to participate in the excursion they can usually introduce you to the individual(s) who can help.
- Identify the public and private schools containing grades 5 and up closest to your golf course. Look on their websites for the names and contact information of the school principal, science program coordinator or teachers.
- Email the principal and teacher introducing yourself and your golf course. A sample message is provided below.
- Be prepared to follow up your email with a phone call. Very often you will need to leave a message.
- Persist and be patient. Teachers and principals are busy!
- Be sure to invite them to look at the First Green website ([www.astma.com.au/education/first-green/about-first-green/](http://www.astma.com.au/education/first-green/about-first-green/)). It is a good way to start a conversation with them.
- BEGIN EARLY – remember that schools schedule their excursions well in advance of the date in order to get all arrangements made.
- Once you get connected to the school and host an excursion, you won't have any problems with future excursions! Getting the conversation started is the hardest part.

## Sample Email Message

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ ,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am the golf course superintendent at \_\_\_\_\_

Which is located near your school. I am sending you this email to introduce myself and tell you about First Green, a program that enables you to bring your students to the golf course for (STEM) science learning labs. The website is [www.astma.com.au/education/first-green/about-first-green/](http://www.astma.com.au/education/first-green/about-first-green/). Please take a few moments to view the information on the home page of the website and see the lesson plans and other resources that are available to you without any costs. I would very much like to talk more with you about hosting you and your students at

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of golf course.) I will call you in a few days to answer any questions you may have and learn about what you would like your students to experience on an excursion.

Thank you in advance for looking at the First Green website. I look forward to talking with you and having you visit my golf club.

### Register Your Excursion

Once you've connected with a school or youth group and settled on a date for the excursion, please register the excursion on the First Green website. You are now ready to plan your excursion.