

Tee Time Leads to Prizes for Lucky Pinecrest Golfer



It's Sunday afternoon at Pinecrest Golf Course, and Thomas Tso of Fairfax is checking in for his weekly round of golf with his 14-year-old son, Joseph. It's something they've done together for years, only this round is one for the memory books.

"I paid for the round, and when the employee looked at the sheet, he said it was for the 25,000th visitor, and people started pulling out poppers and balloons," Tso said with a chuckle. "I thought it was for someone else!"

With his tee time on Oct. 5, Tso became the 25,000th customer to check in at Pinecrest since the course reopened in May following the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. To celebrate, Tso was awarded a Pinecrest gift basket and four rounds of golf and four cart rentals sponsored by local realtor E.J. Stone.

"I was pretty surprised and excited," Tso's son, Joseph, said. "I play here quite a bit."

In fact, it's Joseph who is the golfer in the family. His dad just comes along for the ride, camaraderie and quality time between father and son.

"It's a great way to spend time outside, and we talk about all sorts of things, like school life," Tso said. "It's time away from the screen."

"It's really fun, even though he doesn't play," Joseph said about his father. "Over time, watching me play, he's learned the skills and has the knowledge of things like reading greens and the distance to the hole. He can advise me."

It all started years ago when Tso noticed how much his son enjoyed playing mini golf. He wondered if golf would be a good sport for Joseph, so he decided to register him for a golf class at Pinecrest, and a budding golfer was born.

"We tried a lot of sports, and this is the one he enjoyed doing," Tso recalled.

"The teachers were great and made it fun, and that's what really got me into it" Joseph said enthusiastically. "The classes and lessons were very positive, and camps were really fun."

Tso appreciates the value and opportunity Park Authority golf courses provide to the community. He says his father didn't play, and golf was virtually unattainable to him as a child growing up in Asia.

"It's very hard to play there, very expensive and there are not as many courses," Tso said. "There are lots of courses here and they are very affordable."

Joseph says his next goal is to make the golf team when he enters high school. For now, he'll continue to team up with his dad for their weekly outings and enjoy celebrating more milestone moments along the way.

"I think I'll play golf for the remainder of my life, because it's really fun," Joseph said.

Golf classes and private lessons are offered at most Park Authority golf courses. To find a class near you, turn to the Golf section.



For Exercise and Stress Relief – Try Golf!

Tired of walking around the block? Why not join the throngs of people who have taken up a sport that's naturally socially distant: golf? Like courses across the nation, Park Authority golf courses are seeing an increase in business from beginners to returning players who are hungry for physical activity and an escape from the pandemic-related worries of the day. Golf is played outdoors in wide open spaces, and players can check in for their tee time by phone. Even on bitterly cold days, the Park Authority's heated, covered driving ranges enable players to learn, practice and fine-tune the game in relative comfort, and instruction is offered year-round. Clubs are provided for classes and sanitized after each use, or you can bring your own clubs. Sign up for a class or private lessons, or book a tee time and get into the game! To find a course or golf class near you, turn to the golf section.

