

Novice Group Informational Flyer

Overview of Group

The Novice Program provides regular playing opportunities with experienced golfers. We believe that regular playing opportunities for the novice golfer will help to build self-confidence on the course. The course-play opportunity includes the pairing of one mentor with three novice players. We usually play at two nearby executive golf courses – Henson Creek and Paint Branch. We schedule regular playing opportunities during the week and after-work (~5:30pm). Generally, the season runs from May to August but can be extended if there is interest.

Please be clear that the Novice Program is NOT for getting golf lessons. We recommend that you seek out a club pro at a local golf course or driving range. We do provide you an opportunity to practice what you learn in your golf lessons. Here is a good website to find golf lessons near you,

<http://www.playgolfamerica.com/ggr/>

Experienced golfers are welcome to participate as a mentor. We ask that you play at least two 9-hole games. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please check the box on the registration form or simply contact Dan Vacca (daniel.a.vacca@census.gov) or Ken Butler (john.k.butler.jr@census.gov). You will be contacted in early May about scheduling dates and courses.

You can find more information about Census Golf on the Census Golf Club website (<http://cww2.census.gov/cbwra/golf/cgc.html>).

Executive Golf Courses

Henson Creek and Paint Branch are local executive golf courses and will take 20 to 30 minutes to arrive from the Bureau, depending on the traffic.

Paint Branch

4690 University Blvd
College Park, MD 20740
Phone (301) 935-0330

Directions –

From Capital Beltway, take Exit 25 (US-1) toward College Park. Merge onto MD-193 toward University of Maryland/Byrd Stadium. Take first right after passing I-95.

Henson Creek

7200 Sunnyside Ln
Fort Washington, MD 20744
Phone (301) 567-4646

Directions -

From the Washington Beltway (I-95/495), take Exit 4A Saint Barnabas Rd. At the second traffic light, turn left onto John Hanson Ln. Go a very short distance and turn right at the traffic light onto Saint Barnabas Rd. Go straight through the light at Bock Rd and make a left turn onto Tucker Rd (just after the white church on the corner). Go ¼ mile. Course is on the right.

Course Play Schedule

We create a schedule for the season based on your responses to the Registration and the availability of mentors. We plan to post the schedule on the Census Golf Club website when available in May. We will send out a message when the schedule is available.

Scheduled Play Sign-up Process

About one week prior to a scheduled course play, we will send out a message to the group opening a sign-up period for that particular date. We will include in this message the deadline date to sign-up and the number of slots available.

The available slots are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. The number of slots available is dependant on the number of mentors scheduled to play. For example, if there is one mentor scheduled then there are 3 slots available, and if there are 2 mentors then 6 slots are available, and so on. Once the deadline for sign-ups is closed, I will send a confirmation message to the folks signed up to play.

Scheduled Play Time & Costs

Tee-off is scheduled for 5:30. Please arrive fifteen minutes early to pay greens fees and purchase a snack if you wish.

The cost to play 9-holes is around ~\$14 (walk) and an additional ~\$6 (cart) if you choose to ride. If you choose to walk, in place of carrying your golf bag, you can rent a pull cart(~\$2) on which to place your bag. If weather forces us to cancel, we will send out a message by 4:00 pm the day of the outing.

Equipment Needed & Ideas on Club Selection

What clubs do I need to get started?

You do not need a full set of clubs to start playing golf. You can begin with a putter, sand wedge, 9 Iron and 7 Iron. You can always add clubs to your set as

needed. This is a good economical way to get into the game. If you plan to play at Paint Branch you will need a minimum of 5 clubs as this is their minimum requirement.

Other required equipment includes the following:

Golf Bag

Golf Balls (Golf balls available from Ken Butler at 2K062A)

Tees

Shoes (walking/tennis shoes are okay) or Golf Shoes (soft spikes only)

Marker (a dime is a good substitute)

Glove (Left handed golfers need a glove for the right hand; right handed golfers need a glove for the left hand)

Retail Stores (New Clubs & Custom Fit Service)

Arundel Golf Park (New Clubs & Custom Fit Service)

1501 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Phone: 410-761-1295 * Fax: 410-761-7501

<http://www.arundelgolf.com>

Dicks Sporting Goods

<http://www.dickssportinggoods.com>

Washington Golf Center

www.washingtongolf.com

Dress Code

For Henson Creek

No tank tops allowed. Collar shirts or tee shirts are allowed. Golf shoes (soft spikes only) or tennis shoes are allowed. Most courses do not allow hard spike golf shoes.

For Paint Branch

Only collared shirts allowed (no tank tops or tee-shirts). Golf shoes (soft spikes only) or tennis shoes are allowed.

Also note that a minimum of 5 clubs with golf bag is required.

Census Golf Club Website

The golf club provides information that is accessible from work or home. We plan to post the course-play schedule and the registration on the website for you. There are also other documents posted that may be helpful.

<http://cww2.census.gov/cbwra/golf/cgc.html> (Intranet)

<http://www.jacksclubhouse.com/cgc.html> (Internet)

Registration & CBWRA Cards

For First Year Novices

If you participate in the Novice Group and this is your first year participating then you do not need to register with the Census Golf Club. The registration fees are waived for first-year participants of the Novice Group. You will have to obtain a CBWRA card through your division's administrative office.

For Second Year Novices and/or Participants in Other Activities

In the event you want to play in other activities in the Golf Club such as the league or regular outings then you MUST register with the Golf Club. The registration form is available on the Golf Clubs' home page. Participants must register and pay the annual \$7.00 registration fee, even if it is only for that one activity. Guests may participate in one outing per year for a nominal fee of \$2 without paying the \$7 registration fee.

The monthly handicap computation service is available for an additional \$6 and is an optional service.

In addition, you will need to obtain a CBWRA card and you can request one on your completed registration form.

Golf Balls Available

The Census Golf Club donates experienced golf balls to the Novice group to help with the initial costs of learning the game. Please go by Ken Butler's desk located at 2K062A and help yourself to as many as you like.

To Participate in the Novice Group

You will need to do the following in order to participate in the Novice Group:

- Complete the 2010 Novice Registration from the Census Golf website and return via e-mail to Dan Vacca (daniel.a.vacca@census.gov) by **May 10, 2010**. We will use the information on the registration to develop the course-play schedule.

- Complete the Golf Club Registration form and pay club dues if you fall into one of the following categories:
 - Returning to the Novice Program for a second or subsequent year
 - Joining the Novice Program for the first year, but plan on participating in other club activities such as the monthly outings or league.

The Golf Club Registration form is located on the Census Golf Club website.

- Obtain a CBWRA card from your Administrative office