



WESTERN GOLF ASSOCIATION, WOMEN'S WESTERN GOLF ASSOCIATION FORM NEW PARTNERSHIP

GOLF, IL (May 10, 2017) ... The Western Golf Association and the Women's Western Golf Association are forming a new partnership in which the WGA will assist in managing WWGA championships beginning Aug. 1, leaders jointly announced this week.

The new agreement also provides for the WGA to help guide the Women's Western Golf Foundation, which was founded by the WWGA in 1971 and has awarded more than \$3.5 million in scholarships to more than 690 young women from across the country.

The history of connections between the two organizations dates back more than 116 years, as the WGA was the initial sponsor of the Western Women's amateur championship in 1901. The women organized their own association in 1903, changing the name to the Women's Western Golf Association. In 2011, the WGA agreed to provide administrative support to WWGA championships beginning in 2012.

As part of the new five-year agreement, the WGA will help stage and promote the WWGA's Women's Western National Amateur Championship and the Women's Western National Junior Championship and secure host sites for the events.

The 117th Women's Western Amateur Championship will be played June 12-17 at River Forest Country Club in Elmhurst, Illinois, and the 91st Women's Junior Championship will be held July 10-14 at Dubuque Golf and Country Club in Dubuque, Iowa.

"The history between these two golf associations goes back to the beginnings of the Women's Western Golf Association. We have had a great relationship with the Western Golf Association through the years," said Frances Fleckenstein, president of the Women's Western Golf Association. "After forming our partnership again in 2011, we now look forward to taking the next step to having their full support, which will be beneficial to both our organizations."

WGA Chairman David Robinson said the partnership is a perfect fit for the two historic organizations.

"We're excited to be deepening our relationship with the WWGA, which has done so much in the Midwest and across the country for women's golf," said Robinson. "It is an organization whose values and storied history of championships and scholarships are very much aligned with our own."

The two organizations also jointly sponsor a Women's Western Evans Scholar, awarding a four-year tuition and housing college scholarship to a female caddie who excels academically, has an outstanding caddie record and demonstrates financial need. The current Women's Western Evans Scholar is Hannah Gillespie, who is completing her freshman year at the University of Notre Dame.

About Women's Western Golf Association

The WWGA has conducted its National Amateur Championship consecutively for the past 116 years. The Women's National Junior Championship was first played in 1920 and is one of the oldest national junior championships in the women's game. The Women's Western Open was held from 1930-1967 and considered a major championship in women's golf; the Open endorsed and supported the formation of the LPGA and women's professional golf. The WWGA currently conducts its board meetings at WGA headquarters.

About Women's Western Golf Foundation

The Women's Western Golf Foundation was founded by the Women's Western Golf Association in 1971. Its primary objective is to grant academic undergraduate scholarships. Since its creation, the WWGF has granted more than \$3.5 million to more than 690 young women from across the country.

About Western Golf Association

Founded in 1899 to serve golfing interests in the growing Midwest, the Western Golf Association conducts three prestigious golf championships and supports the nationally acclaimed Evans Scholars Foundation. Headquartered in Golf, Illinois, the organization was founded in 1899 by 11 Chicago-area golf clubs to promote their interests in golf. In addition to its premiere event – the BMW Championship – the WGA conducts two prestigious amateur championships, the Western Amateur and the Western Junior.

About Evans Scholars Foundation:

Established by famed amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr., the Evans Scholars Foundation provides full housing and tuition scholarships to high-achieving caddies across the country. The Program, which is supported by the Western Golf Association, is funded by contributions from more than 30,600 Evans Scholars Par Club members, including Evans Scholars Alumni, as well as proceeds from the BMW Championship. Since the Program's inception in 1930, more than 10,400 caddies nationwide have graduated as Evans Scholars.

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