



Schenectady Municipal Golf Course  
Brian Damon, Head Professional



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## **Mayor Brian U. Stratton Presents Schenectady's First "Hook A Kid On Golf" Charity Classic Event**

**SCHENECTADY** – Mayor Brian U. Stratton and Schenectady Head Golf Professional Brian Damon are proud to announce a Charity Golf Classic fundraising event that will raise funds for Schenectady's "Hook A Kid On Golf" program. The program is designed to introduce the game of golf to children who otherwise would not have access to clubs, courses or lessons. The Schenectady "Hook A Kid On Golf" Charity Classic is set for Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Schenectady Municipal Golf Course.

Mayor Stratton said, "I believe that the lessons that golf teaches can translate into other areas of life. Even more importantly, children that are active in sports or other organized activities are also far more likely to stay out of trouble and become productive members of society. I am proud that we are able to bring this nationally proven program to the City of Schenectady."

The "Hook A Kid On Golf" program is America's largest and most comprehensive youth golf program, and is backed by the United States Golf Association (USGA). It has benefited more than 52,000 participants and is active in more than 250 communities across the country. Established in 1990, the program focuses on providing communities with a youth golf program that eliminates the obstacles that discourage youngsters from learning and continuing to play golf while instilling in them an understanding of golf's rules, etiquette and history.

The Schenectady "Hook A Kid On Golf" Charity Classic will raise money to fund up to 80 scholarships for the weeklong "Tee Level" clinics. The clinics consist of four days of instruction and one day of on-course play. There are also presentations throughout the week of the clinic that teach the children about rules and etiquette, golf course maintenance and even drug and alcohol awareness. Each child that participates is provided with a starter set of golf clubs and other items that are necessary to begin to learn the game. The clubs will be housed at the golf course after the clinics, so that the kids will have access to them whenever they want to golf.

Clinic graduates will be able to participate with other Schenectady juniors in a national junior golf tournament where score is only part of the winning equation; life skills and golf knowledge are also a factor.

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Damon, who was just named Northeast New York PGA Teacher of the Year, said, “Golfers learn to compete by embracing ethics, etiquette, positive thinking, communication, friendship and empathy for fellow competitors. They learn the importance of being prompt, the value of preparation, patience and yes, ‘the rub of the green’ or ‘life’s hard knocks’.”

“Hook A Kid On Golf” is just one of many programs and services provided by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) – America’s leading advocate for safe and healthy sports for youth.

The Schenectady Municipal Golf Course is an 18-hole Championship facility that has been ranked by Golf Digest “Best Places to Play” in both 2004 and 2007.

For more information contact Schenectady Municipal PGA professional Brian Damon or Junior Golf Program Coordinator Mark Durant at 518-382-5155 or log on to [www.schenectadygolf.com](http://www.schenectadygolf.com).

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