

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local AdventHealth Championship volunteer wins PGA TOUR sweepstakes**

*Lee's Summit volunteer wins exclusive exclusive experience at TPC Sawgrass*

**KANSAS CITY, Missouri** – The Korn Ferry Tour announced an AdventHealth Championship volunteer as the winner of the first-ever Stay and Play Sweepstakes.

AdventHealth Championship volunteer Joel Wilson of Lee's Summit, Missouri, was named the lucky winner of the Sweepstakes, a promotion which started in 2024 to incentivize existing tournament volunteers to recruit new first-time volunteers. Wilson will receive the grand prize package which includes a round of golf for four to play THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, a round of golf for four at Dye's Valley Course at TPC Sawgrass, and a Sawgrass Marriott gift card for the trip to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

"I was completely surprised," said Wilson, a long-time supporter of the AdventHealth Championship. "I had been a sponsor in the past through my employer (Edwards Jones) and attended every year going back to LionsGate (2018).

"I was turned on to the opportunity to volunteer by my brother, who was volunteering back when we came as spectators. That has always stuck in the back of my mind head, and I wanted to do a little more."

Not only did Wilson's brother introduce him to the volunteer opportunity, but also to the friend/acquaintance who would ultimately help him win. First-year Scoring Support/Shotlink volunteer Michael Friedrich listed Wilson as his volunteer referral.

"He worked for a number of years with my brother, he's the one who introduced us," Wilson said. "We were chatting and I sent him a screen shot to thank him. He (Freidrich) said I should have to take the person who listed me."

As a volunteer in 2024, Wilson served in Volunteer Headquarters, helping prepare the space, food and supplies for the more than 500 volunteers of the event. He found the shift schedule worked well with the closing of the markets at 3pm each day.

"What a great opportunity. It couldn't happen to a better volunteer," said Heidi Cassaday, Volunteer Services Chair who oversees Volunteer Headquarters. "He really

enjoyed coming to volunteer, even after a full day of work, and he was still so excited to serve. I thank the PGA TOUR for giving back to those who give themselves.”

As a recent golf enthusiast, Wilson was introduced to the game during his time in the military. What started with twice-yearly rounds of golf and occasional lessons, blossomed into a full passion for the sport during Covid. Now, he’s looking to take his skills to Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., in the summer of 2025.

“My wife might come with me, she’s a golfer too,” Wilson said. “Our daughters have a national dance competition in Daytona Beach so we will see if we can make it work around the same time.”

In total, more than 200 volunteers from Korn Ferry Tour events were eligible. Ultimately, Wilson was selected the lucky winner to play one of the most coveted golf courses in the country, home of THE PLAYERS Championship.

“It’s pretty special to know Joel was the first winner of this sweepstakes,” said Kristin Kamara, Championship Manager, who oversees the Volunteer Program. “We have a lot of very deserving volunteers, who do so much to make this event a success, and we are thankful to the PGA TOUR for recognizing them and providing this special opportunity.”

Now that Wilson is on the volunteer side of the event, he sees the importance of his role to the success of the event, and now, more than ever, he’s ready to support the community through the AdventHealth Championship.

"My favorite thing about volunteering is the excitement around the AdventHealth Championship, how engaging it is," Wilson said. "You get drawn into the play. I don't really watch much, but to feel the environment and see everything is really neat."

“As a sponsor, it’s a different type of engagement. Bringing people to the 18th hole to engage and watch players finish is super fun. The organization needs help to put on this huge tournament, and we want it to be a great event for everyone to enjoy. To engage with the volunteers, learn what they do and support, it’s super fun.”

Volunteer registration for the 2025 AdventHealth Championship is now open. For more information, or to register, visit [www.adventhealthchampionship.com/volunteer](http://www.adventhealthchampionship.com/volunteer).

The AdventHealth Championship is a cornerstone Kansas City event utilizing professional golf to positively impact the KC Heartland and those charities supported. The 2025 AdventHealth Championship will take place May 12-18 at Blue Hills Country Club. For more information about the AdventHealth Championship, please visit [www.AdventHealthChampionship.com](http://www.AdventHealthChampionship.com).

### **About Korn Ferry Tour**

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour identifies and develops golf's next stars, preparing them to compete and win on the game's biggest stage. The Korn Ferry Tour, which has served as a path to the PGA TOUR since its inception, began providing 30 PGA TOUR cards annually. Each season, the top 30 players secure PGA TOUR cards via the Korn Ferry Tour's regular season. With more than 590 PGA TOUR titles, 25 major championships and six FedEx Cup Champions, Korn Ferry Tour alumni make up over 75 percent of the PGA TOUR's current membership. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit [PGATOUR.COM](http://PGATOUR.COM) or follow the Korn Ferry Tour on social media.

### **About AdventHealth Championship**

The AdventHealth Championship, a PGA TOUR sanctioned event on the Korn Ferry Tour, is conducted annually at Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Missouri. This four-day, 72-hole competition features 156 players from around the world vying for a total purse of 1,000,000. As the path to the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour features some of the most talented professional golfers who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage.