



**Warren C. Evans**  
**Sheriff**

# News Release

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## Inner city kids to learn golf, gain life skills

◆ ***New program uses game to mentor youth on life lessons learned on the links***

Each equipped with his or her own brand new starter sets of golf clubs, 18 inner-city kids hit the links today for the very first time today with Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans as part of a new Youth Golf & Mentoring Program.



Eleven boys and seven girls, all students at University Prep Middle School in Detroit, participated in the annual golf outing fundraiser for the Wayne County Sheriff's

Youth Education Fund, a non-profit organization that raises funds to support Sheriff's Office child safety and development programs. The fund is sponsoring the new mentoring program.

Evans says that the idea behind the new program is about much more than swinging a club.

"While it is nice to think that we may be grooming the next Tiger Woods, the program is designed so that these kids will stand a shot at being a success in any profession they choose," Evans said. "There are a lot of practical life skills, such as patience, persistence, concentration and honesty that are important aspects of the game. The golf course also is a great place for professional networking, which we also will help these kids with," Evans added.

Since this was their first introduction to the game of golf, the students were allowed to follow along with foursome to begin learning the basics. They also received some instruction from a very special guest.

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Kids to learn from MSU's first black golf team coach

To make sure the students truly learn how to play golf, Evans recruited Sam Puryear, who is the first African American Golf Coach at Michigan State University. Puryear, along with Sheriff Evans and other individuals will spend time coaching and mentoring the 18 program participants on and off the golf course.

"When it comes to the game of golf, these kids are blank slates, so the sky really is the limit for them. I wanted to make sure that they had one of the very best golf instructors available, but also someone they can identify with and look to as a role model," Evans said. "I am extremely grateful that Mr. Puryear agreed to take the time out of his busy schedule to give something back to these great kids."

After today's golf outing, University Prep Middle School, with the support of the Sheriff's Youth Fund, will manage the program. The kids will be matched up with mentors, go to the driving range, receive more instruction and participate in other related activities.

Evans said that his hope is that each of the kids will be playing well enough to join in one of the foursomes at next year's golf outing fundraiser.

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