

## ***YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD***

*This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional who is a leader in junior golf, reflects the image and qualities that juniors can emulate, and provides opportunities for juniors to learn and play golf.*

***Gavin Parker, PGA***  
*Salisbury Country Club*  
*Midlothian, Virginia*

Gavin was born November 7, 1992, in Richmond, Virginia. Gavin has been playing golf since he was twelve years old when he was introduced to the game of the by his father through the First Tee. His dad placed the club in his hand, but it was the sound of the stick hitting the ball for him. He quickly fell in love with the sport and was supported by his mother Tracy and sister Addie.

He attended the Professional Golf Management program at Campbell University where he also received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 2015. Following his graduation, he became a golf professional and was elected to PGA membership in 2016.

Gavin held several internships in greater Richmond area as a part of the PGM program. His first role after earning PGA membership was as Director of Instruction at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, Virginia. He then transitioned to his current role as the Director of Instruction at Salisbury Country Club.

Gavin quickly developed a fresh approach to his teaching, making the game fun for golfers of all ages and abilities. Gavin is known for his infectious energy and teaches golf to young children through a series of games, which develop his student's critical thinking and problem solving while simultaneously instilling a passion for golf.

He considers his coaching purpose to be to cultivate fulfillment, spread the joy and positivity of the game of golf for all kids to succeed regardless of skill level. He has developed a rapidly growing audience on Tik Tok and Instagram, producing viral videos of golf games, coach content, lessons, and humor daily. Gavin aims to transcend golf beyond just improving a score but also well-being and unforgettable environments for kids. As Gavin explains "he teaches people, not golf."

Gavin has already received two awards in his short but illustrious career. He received the Grow the Game Award from the Virginia State Golf Association and was named Golf Digest's Best Young Teacher.