

PRESS RELEASE

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Wisconsin State Golf Association hires two for America's #1 Golf Internship

Paid positions will provide the opportunity to play courses across Wisconsin, including 10 top-100 public courses, generating unique social media content to showcase Wisconsin as a golf destination

Milwaukee, Wis. (May 18, 2021) – The Wisconsin State Golf Association (WSGA) has hired two interns to spend the summer getting paid to play golf as part of **America's #1 Golf Internship**. Patrick Koenig, 41, of Laguna Beach, Calif., and Madison-native Bobbi Stricker, 22, stood out amongst hundreds of applicants from 25 different states eager to earn the dream job of any golfer.

"The response to America's #1 Golf Internship has been beyond anything we expected," said WSGA Executive Director Rob Jansen. "Bobbi and Patrick both have such a passion for the game and for Wisconsin golf that we couldn't pick just one, so we hired them both."

Each of the two interns has a history with and a passion for the sport. Koenig left a career in sales in 2018 to purchase a recreational vehicle to tour the country playing golf while raising money for First Tee. Called the Recreational Golf Vehicle (RGV) Tour, Koenig ultimately spent a year on the road, playing 405 different golf courses across the country with 793 different people he connected with along the way. At the end of his tour he presented a \$20,000 check to First Tee – Seattle on Jan. 31, 2019.

"I'm proof you're never too old to be an intern," said Koenig, who has amassed over 88,000 followers on Instagram and is now one of the top golf course photographers in the country. "I've long said that Wisconsin is the best state for public golf in the United States and I'm looking forward to showcasing the beauty of its courses this summer."

Stricker graduated in early May with a degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin (UW) - Madison where she was a top player on the women's golf team. Stricker capped her UW-career with a T24 finish at the Big Ten Championship while shooting a collegiate-best 70 in the second round. She was also a 2021 Big Ten Sportsmanship Award honoree.

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“I’m really excited for this opportunity,” said Stricker, whose father Steve Stricker is a 12-time winner on the PGA Tour and is the captain of the United States Team for this year’s Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits in Kohler. “There are so many great public courses in the state that I’ve never played and I’m looking forward to visiting.”

Stricker will hit the road first, starting her internship on June 1 at Erin Hills Golf Course. She’ll play 15 rounds of golf at some of Wisconsin’s top courses throughout the summer in addition to her competitive schedule which includes Symetra Tour Qualifying School and the Wisconsin Women’s State Open and State Amateur. Koenig will play 50 Wisconsin courses in 50 days starting on July 14 at Brown Deer Park Golf Course in Milwaukee. In addition to Wisconsin’s top golf destinations, Koenig will be shining a spotlight on all types of courses in all parts of the state in search of the perfect photo and interesting stories and people along the way.

Wisconsin is home to 10 top-100 public golf courses according to *Golf Digest*: Whistling Straits – Straits & Irish courses, Erin Hills, Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes, Blackwolf Run – Meadow Valleys & River courses, Lawsonia Links, SentryWorld, and Troy Burne. Nine of these top-100 courses fall within a 150-mile radius. Wisconsin also landed nine courses on *Golfweek*’s recently released list of top-100 public courses in the United States.

“The proximity of our state’s bucket-list courses makes Wisconsin unmatched when it comes to world-class golf, accommodations, variety, and convenience,” said Jansen.

Wisconsin is a major destination for championship level golf as it has hosted and continues to host a run of major championships. Previously Wisconsin was the host site of the 2012 U.S. Women’s Open at Blackwolf Run, the 2004, 2010 and 2015 PGA Championships at Whistling Straits, and the 2017 U.S. Open at Erin Hills. This year kicks off another stretch of visits from the world’s best golfers with the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits, followed by the 2023 U.S. Senior Open at SentryWorld, and the U.S. Women’s Open returns in 2025 at Erin Hills.

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WSGA: @wsgagolf (Instagram and Twitter)

Patrick Koenig: @pjkoenig (Instagram) and @patrickjkoenig (Twitter)

Bobbi Stricker: @bobbistrick (Instagram and Twitter)

ABOUT THE WISCONSIN STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

The WSGA is a nonprofit organization that serves as the state’s governing body for amateur golf with eight full-time staff members and four summer interns. Founded in 1901, the WSGA is dedicated to promoting and conserving the game, throughout the state of Wisconsin and providing key services to its membership of over 350 clubs and more than 40,000 individual golfers. The WSGA administers over 80 tournaments each year, including men’s and women’s tournaments and championships, junior championships, as well as WSGA and USGA qualifying events. The WSGA offices are located at the Golf House of Wisconsin in West Allis, which also houses the Wisconsin PGA, Golf Course Owners of Wisconsin, Senior Golf Association of Wisconsin and First Tee — Southeast Wisconsin.