



TEN THINGS TO KNOW FOR THE BEGINNER CADDIE

WHAT IS A CADDIE?

There are three main roles of a caddie:

1. Carry a player's golf bag throughout their round of golf. More able-bodied caddies occasionally carry two bags at once, typically referred to as a "double."
2. Assists golfers throughout their round. The level of assistance is dependent on the caddie's course knowledge and the personal needs of the player. At a minimum, the caddie is expected to keep the player's balls and clubs clean, hand the player their clubs when requested and help locate the ball in the rough. Strategic-based tasks are typically reserved for more experienced caddies. Examples of such include providing guidance for a player to aim, aiding in the "read" of a putt, or providing suggestions on types of shots to hit.
3. Maintains the course. Proper care of the golf course throughout play is key to ensuring high-quality playing conditions. This includes replacing divots, raking bunkers and repairing ball marks on the green.

WHO CAN CADDIE?

Anyone of legal working age who can meet the physical demands of walking the distance required while carrying a golf bag can be a caddie.

WHAT'S A PROFESSIONAL CADDIE?

The on-course responsibilities between a daily country club caddie and that of a career professional caddie mirror each other. However, caddies seen on televised tournaments are typically employed by the same professional for multiple tournaments, often entire seasons and even entire careers. As a result, the professional caddie-player relationship is much more intimate with significant tailored guidance and strategy provided throughout the round.

WHAT DOES THE DAY TYPICALLY LOOK LIKE?

Caddies typically arrive between 30 and 60 minutes before their anticipated Loop. Once the player arrives, the caddie will then head to the practice facilities to assist as needed at the range and practice putting green. The round begins promptly at the scheduled "Tee Time." Upon conclusion of the round caddies will either depart for the day or when course demand warrants, have the opportunity to be paried with another player to caddie a second round.

HOW LONG DOES A ROUND TYPICALLY TAKE?

Most country clubs require a round of golf to be punctually completed in 4.5 hours or less. It is part of the caddie's role to ensure their assigned group is always meeting the pace of play expectations and not causing delays throughout the course.

WHAT ABOUT GOLF CARTS?

Some golf courses require the use of carts only, others are walking only. The golf experience at Oakland Hills Country Club lies in between. Many members and guests choose to utilize carts on our North Course, while a far majority of rounds on our South Course are completed on foot. At Oakland Hills Country Club, only more senior caddies will have the opportunity to be assigned to cart-using members and guests.

DO I TALK TO THE PLAYERS?

Yes, a key part of caddying is interaction with their assigned player. The quantity of interaction is dependent on the member or guests' personality and desire for such throughout the round.

WHAT DO CADDIES WEAR?

Each country club has its own specific uniform. The most important element to any caddie's outfit is proper footwear. Comfortable walking shoes, with some form of water resistance for protection during dewy or rainy conditions, are recommended. Caddies do not wear spiked golf shoes.

WHAT IS AN EVANS SCHOLAR?

The Evans Scholars Foundation is a charitable trust that provides full, four-year tuition and housing college scholarships to deserving caddies. The Foundation is overseen by the Western Golf Association, which also runs six prestigious golf tournaments, including the BMW Championship. The University of Michigan and Michigan State University are among the 22 prestigious institutions in the Evans Scholars program. For more information visit: wgaesf.org

HOW CAN I GET A HEAD START AS A CADDIE?

Below are a few ways to build your caddie and golf knowledge to give you a head start to becoming a successful caddie:

Study the Course- Committing the scorecard and course layout to memory is vital in navigating a group through their round. Referencing satellite maps, articles and videos are valuable resources to building further course knowledge.

Learn to 'Track' a Golf Ball- To successfully locate an errant shot in deep grass, one must be able to follow the trajectory of the golf ball in the air and identify its approximate landing location. For one who has never played golf at a high level, a visit to a local driving range with a friend or family member who is experienced in the sport is a great opportunity for exposure to this skill.

Learn the Lingo- Utilize online guides to become familiarized with everything from Albatross to the Yips.

Understand the Rules- The rules of golf can be complex and the wrong action by a caddie could result in a player being penalized or even losing their match. While it is not a caddie's responsibility to enforce the rules, one should hold a basic understanding to avoid such an error. The United States Golf Association (USGA) offers the entire rulebook online as well as a video series explaining the most important rules you should know.