

ALL AGES INVITED TO TEE OFF AT HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

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A golf tournament that once ended play in the dark has become a family holiday tradition at Delray Beach's Lakeview Golf Club. The annual Jingle Bell Scramble, 1-5 p.m. Sunday, allows children as young as age 4 to tee off with family and friends.

"It was originally done as something fun for kids around Christmas time," organizer Peter Dolittle said. "Since then it's gotten more and more popular."

Between 100 and 125 children and parents participate each year, he said.

Now in its 11th year, the 18-hole scramble includes contests for participants of all ages, raffles, a barbecue and an awards ceremony.

Family participation is what draws people from around South Florida and as far north as New York each year, tournament director Sandra Eriksson said.

"The kids get excited about it, especially since they can play with their parents and grandparents," she said. "I think we've started a tradition. People are easily pulled toward participating in traditional events."

The Jingle Bell Scramble tradition began in 1994, when a team of organizers, led by Eriksson, decided to plan a family tournament. December was the perfect month since families come together during the holidays, Eriksson said.

It was during the first Jingle Bell Scramble that players finished well into the evening. The awards ceremony was in the cart barn because of construction at Delray Beach Golf Club, where the event was launched. Eriksson laughs at the mishap now.

"The last team finished in pitch black," she said. "But they also won the event. It was pretty funny."

Registration begins at 12:15 p.m., followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The cost is \$10 for Lakeview's Junior Golf Club members, \$20 for children and \$30 for adults. Part of the proceeds benefit the Children's Golf Foundation. Call 561-498-3220 or visit www.affordablegolf.com.