



MISSISSIPPI
GOLF RESORT CLASSIC



CHAMPIONS



MARCH 30 – APRIL 2, 2017

Program Facts

- Birdies for Charity® is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation established in the state of Iowa.
- The Corporation was formed for the purpose of licensing the Birdies for Charity® program to interested tournaments on the PGA TOUR, Champions TOUR, Nationwide TOUR and LPGA TOUR, to establish rules and regulations to be followed by licensees and to oversee compliance.
- A birdie for Charity® is a registered trademark of Birdies for Charity, Inc. unauthorized use of the name and/or logo is strictly forbidden.
- The Corporation has no direct affiliation with the Champions TOUR, the sanctioning body of professional golf tournaments on the “regular PGA TOUR, the Champions TOUR and the Nationwide TOUR, or the LPGA TOUR.”
- Participating tournaments enter a licensing agreement with the Corporation and agree to abide by the specific rules established for the Birdies for Charity® program.
- The Corporation has no direct involvement in the Birdies for Charity® program launched by a tournament. They do not fund the program on a local basis, nor do they share in the proceeds raised by the sponsoring organization or participating charities.
- A nominal licensing fee is paid by the sponsoring organization – in this case, Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic, has the right to conduct a Birdies for Charity® program.

Program Summary

Birdies for Charity® is a multi-level fundraising program designed to give participating charities the opportunity to generate contributions for their organization based on the number of “birdies” made by Champions Tour players Friday through Sunday during the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic.

The program has three primary components:

- I. Solicitation of pledges from individuals and/or corporations
 - II. “Guess the Birdies” contest
 - III. Bonus Bucks
- Participating charities will solicit pledges of three (3) cents or more from the general public and/or corporate donors for every “birdie” made or donors can make a flat donation of \$10 or more.
 - In golf, a “birdie” is a score of one stroke better than “par” for any golf hole on the golf course. “Par” is the normal expected score of a golf professional on any given hole.
 - It is expected that 700-800 birdies will be made by the Champions Tour Professionals (Friday through Sunday) of the tournament. 678 birdies were made in 2016.

I. Pledge Solicitation

- Each participating charity has the opportunity to solicit pledges from individuals and/or corporations. Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic will not solicit pledges for any participating charity.
- The following example shows how the value of a single pledge is calculated:
 - Example:
 - Individual Pledge \$.03 per birdie x 750 birdies = \$22.50 pledge
 - Corporate Pledge - \$3.00 per birdie x 750 birdies = \$2,250 pledge

100% of the pledges collected will go to the individual charity that solicited the Birdies for Charity® pledge. Administrative and promotional costs for the program will be paid by the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic. (Excluding individual charity organization mailing/solicitation expense)

Program Start Date: **January 12, 2017**

Donation Deadline: **May 5, 2017**

Deadline to Enter Guess the Birdies Contest: **March 30, 2017, Midnight**

Collection Deadline for Payment: **May 25, 2017**

II. “Guess the Birdies” Contest

- To create additional excitement for the program, the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic will sponsor a “Guess the Birdies” contest. Participants who commit to a minimum pledge or donation or a completed official pledge form are eligible to guess the number of birdies that will be made by Champions Tour players Friday through Sunday of the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic. A pledge or donation is not necessary to play “Guess the Birdies” Contest.
- The total number of birdies will be calculated to include all “Birdies” made by Champions Tour players on Friday through Sunday at the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic.
- The “Guess the Birdies” Contest Entry Form will be included on the Official Birdies for Charity Pledge form as well as the Online Form. Participants must submit their guess for the “Guess the Birdies” contest when submitting pledge form or when pledging online.
- Only guessed on pledge forms submitted before **March 30, 2017 at midnight** will be entered into the contest.
- The **2017 Grand Prize** is a two (2) night hotel stay, dinner for two (2) at the Scarlet grille and a round of miniature golf for two (2) at Lava Links, all compliments of the Scarlet Pearl Resort.

The Grand Prize will be awarded to the individual who correctly guesses the exact number of birdies made during the tournament. In case of ties, the Grand Prize winner will be determined by random drawing between participants that tied.

If no individual guesses the correct number, the Grand Prize will be awarded to the person who comes closest (without going over the total). In case of ties, a random drawing between participants who tied will determine the winner.

III. Bonus Bucks

Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic will donate Bonus Bucks, which will be distributed to the top three performing charities during the 2017 Birdies for Charity program. Bonus Bucks will be shared in proportion to the pledges collected on their behalf.

The cut-off date for the collection of all pledges is May 5th. After that date, we will determine the top three charities based on their collected amount. We will include the bonus bucks check along with their final check, which will be distributed no later than the end of August.

Top Three Charities:

- 1st place – 100% match up to **\$7,500**
- 2nd place – 100% match up to **\$5,000**
- 3rd place – 100% match up to **\$2,500**

*Bonus Bucks are paid based on a charity's total pledges **paid**, not on the total pledges made.

Example: Charity A solicited \$20,000 in pledges, but only \$10,000 is collected. Charity A receives Bonus Bucks based on the \$10,000 collected

Payment of Donations

The Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic will distribute checks to each charity on the 15th of each month for donations collected the prior month if paid donations total more than \$100.00. Any remaining funds will be paid in a final check at the official check presentation ceremony no later than the end of August.



Pledge Solicitation Rules & Regulations

1.) Participating charities must not solicit pledges in advance of the official pledge period as defined by the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic. You may notify your constituents via normal communication (ex: newsletter) that you are participating in Birdies for Charity®, but may not directly or indirectly request a pledge be made in advance of the official period. Failure to abide by this provision will result in expulsion from the program.

2.) Limited use of trademarks of Birdies for Charity® and Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic will be granted to all participating charities. Samples of materials bearing the trademarks must be submitted to Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic prior to distribution.

3.) Unauthorized use of the trademarks of Birdies for Charity® and the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic is strictly prohibited, and is grounds for expulsion from the program.

4.) The participating charity is responsible for the collection and submission of all completed pledge forms to Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic. MGRC is not responsible for any pledge cards not received by the established deadline. Pledge forms that come in without the appropriate signature will be returned and not processed.

5.) **The official “Online Kick-Off” is Thursday, January 12, 2017.** Once this date passes, the charities may start turning in their pledges to Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic. The cut-off date for donations is **May 5th (midnight).**

Please mail or drop off all of the pledge forms collected by those dates. Forms can be mailed to the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic, P.O. Box 7362, D’Iberville, MS 39540 - Attn: Mary Wesche. Forms can be dropped off at the MGRC office, Second Floor, 917 Howard Ave, Biloxi. Please do not mail forms to our physical locations and contact Mary to make arrangements to drop off forms.

6.) Payments from Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic will be equal to 100% of the value of collected pledges. No payment will be made on uncollected pledges. Payments made over and above the pledge amount on individual pledges to a charity will be paid to that charity. (Example: person pledges \$.03 per birdie x 750 birdies = \$22.50 pledge. Person submits payment for \$22.50. Charity will be paid the higher amount).

7.) Rules may be amended at any time at the sole and absolute discretion of Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic.

8.) Payment of pledges is to be made to Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic and not the soliciting charity. MGRC will make payment to the participating charities of all collected pledges earned by that charity. After the established deadline, a listing of all uncollected pledges will be provided to each charity organization.

All donor information shall be protected and will remain confidential and the property of the charity. The MGRC Foundation shall not solicit or use this information for any commercial purpose.

“Guess the Birdies” Rules & Regulations

- 1.) NO PLEDGE, PURCHASE OR DONATION IS REQUIRED** to participate in the Birdies for Charity Contest or to become eligible to receive a prize. A pledge will not increase a participant’s likelihood of winning a prize.
- 2.)** The Birdies for Charity Contest is open to all participants who are 18 years of age or older. The contest is void where prohibited or restricted by law. A participant need not be present to win.
- 3.)** Only one (1) Grand Prize will be awarded. The Grand Prize will be awarded to the person who guesses exactly the number of birdies made during the 2017 Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic golf tournament. The guess may be any number. In the case of ties, the Grand Prize winner will be chosen randomly by MGRC Officials from among those who correctly guess the exact number of birdies made. If no one guesses the exact number of birdies made, then the Grand Prize winner will be the person whose guess is the closest (without going over the total) to the actual number of birdies made during the Tournament.
- 4.)** The exact number of birdies made during the tournament will include all birdies made by the Champions Tour players at the 2017 Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic tournament held on Friday through Sunday, during official rounds, Friday through Sunday, and during playoff. It will not include birdies made on the Monday through Thursday at the Pro-Am event.
- 5.)** Guesses for the Grand Prize will be taken up until Thursday, March 31, 2017 at midnight.
- 6.)** Champions Tour Officials will determine the final number of birdies made.
- 7.)** Only guesses made on official entry forms, including online forms, will be eligible for prizes. No exceptions. Entry forms may be obtained at the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic located at Physical Address: 917 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530 and Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7362, D’iberville, MS 39540 or an entry form will be mailed free of charge to anyone requesting one in writing or who calls the tournament office.
- 8.)** The Judges’ decisions and interpretations of these rules will be final and will be made in their sole and absolute discretion. No appeal of further review will be permitted. MGRC Officials will appoint the contest Judges.
- 9.)** Prizes may not be exchanged for cash. A list of all prizewinners may be obtained free of charge upon written request addressed to the tournament office.
- 10.)** Winners are responsible for all sales taxes, registration fees, and INCOME TAXES on all prizes.
- 11.)** Participants are limited to no more than 10 total guesses. Each guess must be on a separate pledge form or online entry form. If more than 10 guesses are received from any one participant, only the first ten guesses received and recorded will be eligible for prizes.
- 12.)** Directors, Officers, and Employees of the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic and the Bruno Event Team together with their families are not eligible for the Grand Prize.
- 13.)** Certain prizes may be limited in size and type. All prizes must be picked up at the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic Tournament Office within forty-five (45) days after notification of award is mailed to participant. All unclaimed prizes will be forfeited.
- 14.)** Clear, legible handwriting is the responsibility of all participants. The tournament shall not be responsible for any errors caused by poor penmanship.
- 15.)** The tournament is not responsible for the “Guess the Birdies” guesses on entry forms received after Thursday at 12:00AM Midnight of the tournament.
- 16.)** These Rules may be amended without notice at any time in the sole and absolute discretion of MGRC Officials.

Additional Information

- Pledges are tax deductible. Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization.
- 100% of all collected pledges will go directly to the organization securing the pledge. No pledge funds will be used for overhead, program administration or prizes.
- No money collected goes to tour players.
- Your charity receives what is collected. If MGRC does not receive the pledge amount by the established deadline, your charity will not receive the donation. After the deadline, a listing of all uncollected pledges will be provided to each charity organization.

****Pledge payment by check must be made out to the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic.***

Tips for a Successful Program

1. Create an e-blast/newsletter
2. Mail-out flyers - Write a formal letter along with pledge card (Handwritten makes it more personal)
3. Have Birdies logo & direct link to Birdies home page on your website
4. Motivate your volunteers using the Bonus Bucks as the incentive
5. Use your e-mail signature as a promo device (Birdies logo & link)
6. Make flyers
7. Advertise the program with an accessory (pin, t-shirt, sticker)
8. Form a Birdies for Charity committee
9. Get help from board members
10. Speaking engagement from Birdies Event Manager
11. One-on-one training
12. Set up a booth in a high traffic area
13. Solicit corporate sponsors
14. Use the MGRC tickets provided as incentives for volunteers and/or donors
15. Local media campaign
16. Make it a competition within
17. Take advantage of the Birdies booth onsite at tournament
18. Advertise the Guess the Birdies grand prize
19. Set a goal and have a thermometer to measure your success to create excitement
20. Gift certificate incentive for volunteers who raise the most
21. Always thank corporate sponsors immediately
22. Promote pledging up to 10 times which will increase the odds of winning a prize
23. Solicit pledges face-to-face (more personal)
24. Host an event with all the proceeds going to Birdies for Charity

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Birdies for Charity Website: <http://www.2017mgrc.com>