



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AdventHealth Championship announces exemptions for 2021 tournament

Three of the four exemptions have local ties to Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Missouri – The AdventHealth Championship announced today their player exemptions for the 2021 AdventHealth Championship, hosted at Blue Hills Country Club the week of May 17-23, 2021. Joining the field of 156 professionals will be Alex Springer, Andy Spencer, Chris Thompson and Peter Creighton.

“We are excited to have several players with direct ties to Kansas City in the field this year,” said Executive Director Drew Van Meeteren. “The AdventHealth Championship will give fans the opportunity to cheer on local players as they watch the next stars of the PGA TOUR compete at historic Blue Hills Country Club.”

Alex Springer joins the field through the automatic exemption awarded to the annual winner of the Watson Challenge. As the 2019 Watson Challenge Champion, Alex will compete this year given that the event was cancelled in 2020. Alex, an Olathe East grad, played golf at University of Central Missouri and turned pro in 2017. He is a two-time Division II PING Honorable Mention All-American.

Andy Spencer, a Shawnee Mission East grad, played golf at the University of Kansas and turned pro in 2020. Andy is also a Watson Challenge Champion winning back-to-back titles in 2017 and 2018. Andy made it to the final stage of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying as an amateur, the same year he qualified for the U.S. Amateur.

Chris Thompson, an Independence grad, played golf at the University of Kansas where he was a two-time All-American, turning pro in 1999. Chris qualified for the 2014 U.S. Open and earned his PGA TOUR card in 2018 with a top 25 finish on the Korn Ferry Tour.

Peter Creighton, a native from Buffalo, New York, is a conditional member of the Korn Ferry Tour after advancing to the final stage of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying. Peter has the lowest scoring average for all Monday qualifiers, but has never qualified for a Korn Ferry Tour event. That all changes next week as Peter will earn his first career start on the Korn Ferry Tour at the AdventHealth Championship. Outside of golf, Peter is also an accomplished hockey player.

The AdventHealth Championship is a 72-hole competition featuring 156 players from around the world. Debuting in 2009, the AdventHealth Championship has enjoyed more than a decade of success in the Kansas City area. In 2019, the tournament moved to Blue Hills Country Club where

University of Oklahoma product Michael Gellerman edged Kansas City's own Harry Higgs for his first victory. The 2020 edition was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission was founded in 1962 with a vision of serving an important purpose - caring for the growing Johnson County, Kansas community. Starting out as a one-story, 65-bed community hospital, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission has evolved into a world-class health system serving the Kansas City region and beyond. The health system focuses on whole person health and wellness, serving as an extension of the healing ministry of Christ.

The [AdventHealth Foundation Shawnee Mission](#), which will serve as the main beneficiary from the AdventHealth Championship, inspires philanthropy that will transform the lives of patients, donors and our community through the healing mission of AdventHealth Shawnee Mission. The Foundation and its supporters are passionate about opportunities to give and volunteer that ignite the hospital's mission to heal the body, ease the mind and lift spirits. The Foundation funds a variety of initiatives and has been instrumental in supporting the hospital's caregivers during the pandemic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Korn Ferry Tour's 2020 and 2021 seasons combined as a one-time, wraparound season due to prior event cancelations. The newly created 2020-21 schedule will conclude with 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded at the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna, with an additional 25 cards awarded at the conclusion of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

For more information about the AdventHealth Championship, please visit www.AdventHealthChampionship.com.

About Korn Ferry

Korn Ferry is a global organizational consulting firm. We work with clients to design their organizational structures, roles and responsibilities. We help them hire the right people and advise them on how to reward, develop and motivate their workforce. And, we help professionals navigate and advance their careers.

About Korn Ferry Tour

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour identifies and develops golf's next stars, preparing them to compete and win on the game's biggest stage. The Korn Ferry Tour, which has served as a path to the PGA TOUR since its inception, began providing 50 PGA TOUR cards annually in 2013. Each season, the top 25 players secure PGA TOUR cards via the Korn Ferry Tour's regular season and an additional 25 players secure promotion through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. With more than 550 PGA TOUR titles and 24 major championships, Korn Ferry Tour alumni make up over 75 percent of the PGA TOUR's current membership. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit PGATOUR.COM or follow the Korn Ferry Tour on social media.

About AdventHealth

With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth is a connected system of care for every stage of life and health. A focus on whole-person health and commitment to caring for the body, mind and spirit unify the system's nearly 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states. AdventHealth in Kansas City includes AdventHealth Shawnee Mission in Merriam, AdventHealth South Overland Park, AdventHealth Lenexa, AdventHealth College Boulevard in Overland Park, AdventHealth Centra Care and AdventHealth Medical Group. AdventHealth Shawnee Mission is the only certified member of MD Anderson Cancer Network®, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center, in Kansas City. Visit AdventHealthKC.com for more information.

About AdventHealth Championship

The AdventHealth Championship, a PGA TOUR sanctioned event on the Korn Ferry Tour, is conducted annually at Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Missouri. This four-day, 72-hole competition features 156 players from around the world vying for a total purse of \$675,000. As the path to the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour features some of the most talented professional golfers who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage.