



For Immediate Release
May 18, 2022

Winner of APGA Tour St. Louis – Ascension Classic to receive exemption into World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba

ST. LOUIS (May 18, 2022) – The APGA Tour St. Louis – Ascension Classic announced today that the winner of its inaugural event, coming to North St. Louis County, Sept. 8-9, 2022, at Glen Echo Country Club, will receive an exemption into the PGA TOUR’s **World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba** this fall.

This coveted playing spot—the first of its kind—is a natural progression for the innovative World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba, which has a history and foundation built on making the game of golf more global and inclusive. Launched in 2007, Mayakoba made history as the PGA TOUR’s first official full-field event held outside the United States or Canada. The tournament is known as a pioneer for the sport of golf in Mexico and Latin America, and has opened the door for Tours such as PGA TOUR Latinoamérica and multiple professional golf events held annually throughout the region.

In addition to their title sponsorship at Mayakoba, St. Louis-headquartered World Wide Technology (WWT) is committed to bringing greater diversity to the sport of golf by serving as title sponsor of the APGA Tour’s Player Development Program and as a Community Partner of the new Ascension Classic. WWT is also a founding partner of the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, an official PGA TOUR Champions event that debuted with enormous success last Fall, and will be played again the week of Sept. 5 at Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis.

Matt Horner, World Wide Technology, Executive Vice President offered, “We are very excited about bringing together two of our lead golf sponsorships by connecting the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba through extending an exemption to the winner of the APGA Tour Ascension Classic. The inaugural St. Louis APGA event is a great addition to the APGA Tour and the St. Louis sports landscape and we are proud to partner with Ascension and so many others. The APGA Tour has built on years of success in assisting with the development of many young individuals who seek to compete professionally while learning and growing. World Wide Technology aligns with the belief that everyone deserves an opportunity to follow their passion, without barriers, and we recognize the APGA Tour in their efforts to lead within professional golf.

“World Wide Technology has been a leader in making golf more diverse and inclusive, and we’re thrilled that our APGA Ascension Classic champion will have the opportunity to compete in a premier event on the PGA Tour,” said Nick Ragone, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Ascension. “For the APGA Tour to become a truly developmental tour for the PGA TOUR, it requires companies like World Wide Technology and other committed partners to provide access and opportunity, and we’re so appreciative that our winner will be able to tee it up alongside the best in the world.”

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While the PGA TOUR Champions stars are teeing it up at Norwood Hills, the potential stars of tomorrow on the APGA Tour will be showcased less than three miles away at historic Glen Echo, which was established in 1901 and is known as the venue that last hosted golf in the Olympic Games in 1904, before golf made its triumphant return to the Summer Olympics in 2016.

At the confluence of golf history and golf's future will be the Ascension Classic, and at stake is a highly coveted spot in an official PGA TOUR event, the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba, Oct. 31–Nov. 6, 2022, at El Camaleón Golf Club at Mayakoba in Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, México.

WWT, a \$14 billion technology solutions provider, was announced in July 2021 as title sponsor for the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba in a seven-year partnership with the PGA TOUR that extends through 2027.

“Since our founding in 2007, we have strived to grow the game of golf and provide opportunities for players to pursue their dreams of reaching the PGA TOUR,” said Joe Mazzeo, Tournament Director for the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba. “For many years, we have keenly supported players from Mexico, Latin America, and all over the world with exemptions to tee it up against the world’s best here at Mayakoba. And now, thanks to our title sponsor, World Wide Technology, we are glad to extend an invitation to the champion of the APGA’s new event in St. Louis, and honored to support the APGA Tour’s Player Development Program.”

The Ascension Classic will be the first tournament in the APGA Tour’s Fall Series, a string of four events in St. Louis, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Los Angeles, that are part of the Tour’s 2022 schedule of 17 events offering over \$700,000 in prize money.

The APGA Tour, established in 2010, is a non-profit organization with the mission to prepare African American and other underrepresented golfers to compete and win at the highest level of professional golf—both on tour and in the golf industry. This is accomplished through professional tournaments, career development and mentoring.

With one of the APGA’s missions being to ease the financial burden associated with golf, support from Ascension and World Wide Technology will help ensure that players have access to the tools and support they need to better focus on their career path and development in the game.

“We are thrilled that the winner of our new APGA Tour event in St. Louis will get an exemption into the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba,” said Ken Bentley APGA CEO. “It will add another level of excitement to what will be one of the top events of the year for our players.”

The Ascension Classic and the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson share like-minded philanthropic goals, as both events provide a vehicle for increased support of the local community and a desire to grow the game of golf. The inaugural Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson raised more than \$1 million for St. Louis charities in just its first year.

Ragone joined Jim Kavanaugh, Co-Founder and CEO, World Wide Technology, and other top CEOs and Executives in the St. Louis business community earlier today for “Sending A Message,” a forum to discuss how top organizations in St. Louis are prioritizing and investing in inclusivity and diversity, accelerating community transformation and building trust among their workforce.

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For more information about the Ascension Classic, including free tickets, pro-am and hospitality availability, and volunteer opportunities, visit the event's landing page on the Ascension Charity Classic website at ascensioncharityclassic.com/apga. For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the APGA Tour on Twitter at @APGA_Tour, on Facebook at @APGATour and on Instagram at @apgatour.

Below please find a link that offers video interviews, still images, logos, and supporting documents about the Ascension Classic and the APGA Tour available for editorial use.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/khqq3tftp67c5o9/AADpjz4KhycXNY7BtXcmfFQ7a?dl=0>

About the APGA Tour and Ascension Classic

The Advocates Professional Golf Association (APGA) was established in 2010 as a non-profit organization with the mission to bring greater diversity to the game of golf. The APGA Tour Board of Directors works to accomplish this by hosting and operating professional golf tournaments, player development programs and mentoring programs, and by introducing the game to inner city young people. In addition to conducting up to 17 tournaments awarding over \$700,000 in prize money annually, the APGA conducts the Player Development Program to aid young minority golfers. The Ascension Classic will be the first tournament in the APGA Tour's Fall Series, a string of four events in St. Louis, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Los Angeles, that are part of the Tour's 2022 schedule. The APGA Tour Farmers Insurance Fall Series will feature a \$15,000 bonus pool that pays an additional \$7,500 to the player who is awarded the most points from each of the four events.

About World Wide Technology (WWT)

Founded in 1990, WWT has grown to become a global technology solution provider with \$14.5 billion in annual revenue. With thousands of IT engineers, hundreds of application developers and unmatched labs for testing and deploying technology at scale, WWT helps customers bridge the gap between IT and the business. By bringing leading technology companies together in a physical yet virtualized environment through its Advanced Technology Center, WWT integrates individually impressive technologies to produce game-changing solutions. Based in St. Louis, WWT employs 7,000 employees and operates more than 4 million square feet of warehousing, distribution and integration space in more than 20 facilities throughout the world. WWT is also committed to the mission of bringing greater diversity to the sport of golf, and is the title sponsor of the APGA Tour's Player Development Program and a founding partner of the Ascension Charity Classic. Additionally, WWT is the title sponsor of the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba on the PGA TOUR and WWT ambassadors include TOUR professionals Harold Varner III, Keith Mitchell, Graeme McDowell, and Billy Andrade.

About Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson

About Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is an official event on the PGA TOUR Champions operated by Tournaments for Charity, a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. This 54-hole stroke play golf tournament features 81 PGA TOUR Champions professionals competing for a \$2 million purse at historic Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis. The event is designed to showcase the best golf on the PGA TOUR Champions for the enjoyment of spectators and to benefit local charities in the North St. Louis County area and beyond. All three official rounds will be internationally televised on the Golf Channel. For more information, visit ascensioncharityclassic.com.

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