

Section 1 - Describe service to the Community including support of the USTA Mission (i.e. special events, provision of courts for USTA programs/clinics/seminars, amateur tournaments, high school or collegiate tennis, support of diversity/inclusion initiatives)

Members of SJTA are involved in several activities whose goals are to give back to the wider community in appropriate ways. From fund-raising events to making tennis available to anyone who enjoys the sport, SJTA members provide the support necessary for success. Service activities include:

- **Greg Rymer Endowment Fund**, which honors Greg Rymer, a St James Teaching Tennis Professional who passed away in 2022. Greg's life mission was to aid in youth development through sports. He spent his life coaching, mentoring, and developing skills for racquet sports athletes at all levels. The Foundation was established by his wife and daughter to continue his legacy and honor his commitment to working with junior players. The Foundation was established through The Southern Tennis Foundation to provide grants to the local NJTL chapter. SJTA members provide financial support to the Foundation through tournaments and events with all racquet sports.
- **Childrens' Cancer Partners of the Carolinas** – to honor the son of our Director of Tennis, Brian Preston, who was lost to pediatric cancer. In 2023 SJTA held a week-long event to raise funding and awareness for Children's Cancer Partners. The event was titled Slammin' & Jammin'. It included a team tennis tournament, a raffle to "Play with the Pro", and Skills & Drills - a unique & fun experience with tennis. Bids & Bites was the main fundraising effort offering a variety of items for bidding through a ticket drop, silent auction and live auction. The week's events culminated in a cookout sponsored by Stifel, local financial planning group, bringing over 100 people together to celebrate our accomplishments. Over \$22,000 was raised to donate to Children's Cancer Partners.
- **Brunswick County Tennis Association** – (BCTA) Three members of SJTA serve on the BCTA board. Coordination of the BCTA women's tennis league is managed by one of our members. The Members Courts serve as one of three host facilities for this league with the vast majority of the matches played at St. James, with no cost to anyone. The Clubs at St. James hosts three lunches every year for the BCTA.
- **National Junior Tennis and Learning** – providing low-cost tennis and educational opportunities to underserved children. This initiative is led by SJTA member Karen Holbrook. Karen freely gives of her time with NJTL, along with other community-based activities. Karen, along with her team of SJTA volunteers, conducts 4-week camps each summer and each semester for after-school programs. In addition to learning tennis, the children are exposed to a variety of educational opportunities including programming robots and learning how to set up a simple electric circuit.
- The **Special Olympics** program here brings tennis to intellectually challenged individuals from Brunswick County. In 2019 SJTA member, Jim Parker worked with Bob Cause to hold an introductory session for the special needs population

of Brunswick County. With the interest created, the program was launched. Now the program runs year-round and currently serves 32 athletes. Jim leads a group of SJTA volunteers to encourage and teach tennis to this group of special needs athletes. In addition to the Special Olympics, the volunteers prepare the athletes for several other State and local competitive events. The training is centered on positive reinforcement and excitement for every attempt to accomplish their goals.

- Being sensitive to the environment, we have recycling bins located at all court locations to collect used tennis balls. Some balls go to the Brunswick County Schools for use under legs of desks and chairs, and some go to local animal shelters. A majority have recently been, and will continue to be, sent to the **RecycleBalls** non-profit recycling facility. St. James has sent over 45,657 balls to the facility over the past five years.
- There are also recycling bins located at all court locations for the annual Sneaker/Golf Shoe donations during August. This charity donation is managed through **GotSneakers** and proceeds support **WAVES 4 K.I.D.S.**, a non-profit social services organization for children in Brunswick County. Several thousand pairs of shoes will stay out of our landfills and will go to people in need in developing countries.

The Founders courts are used as the home courts for all USTA league matches for multiple St. James teams. The number of St James teams that participate in the Southeast Tennis league increases with every new tennis season. Additionally, the Founders location is an available host site for both weekends of the North Carolina State Combo Tournament in November.

Section 2 Describe service to members including USTA programs & support of the USTA mission (i.e. member amenities, Team Tennis, 10 and Under, NJTL, School Tennis, Leagues, Player Development)

The St. James Tennis Association (SJTA) was started in late 2001 by a small group of avid tennis players who lived in the St. James community. By the end of 2002, the organization had grown to 87 members. St. James, once known only as a golf community, quickly began to be known for tennis also. Over the years the love of tennis at St. James has grown exponentially with membership in SJTA now at 469. Membership in SJTA is \$25 annually. We work to stretch these dollars into offering the best tennis experience for each member.

The full board for SJTA consists of 12 dedicated individuals with a single purpose of providing programs and activities to everyone from beginners playing socially, to advanced players seeking a competitive challenge. SJTA is open to all Sports level members of The Clubs at St. James. The Clubs are owned and managed by Troon Prive'. Although SJTA operates independently of The Clubs, there is a close synergy between the two. The General Manager and the Director of Tennis attend our board meetings to stay in tune with the tennis community and our requirements.

The Tennis Program at The Clubs at St James is led by Director of Tennis, Brian Preston. Brian leads a staff of 3 diverse and talented tennis professionals, all of whom provide insights for improving the level of play and enhancing the enjoyment of the game. Daily programs with the pros offer clinics on stroke development and strategies of the game. Private or shared lessons are available based on each member's preferences. Individual and team development sessions are easily scheduled with the teaching pro of choice.

Easy access for all Troon Prive' Sports Members is critical to the success of the tennis program. All courts are open 8AM to 9PM every day. The courts are swept daily before play starts at 8AM. The fully staffed Pro Shop sends a 7:30AM Daily Court Report email to all members regarding court condition, clinics and matches that are occurring on each court for that day. Should inclement weather make the courts unplayable, notice is given via the Court Report with updates as conditions improve.

Troon Prive' has provided their members with the utilization of an equitable booking system that is available 24/7/365 to reserve courts up to seven days in advance. Members can reserve courts for social play, ball machine use, and skills and drill clinics using this system. A weekly schedule is published each Thursday for clinics that will be offered for the coming week.

As witness to the skills of our pros, multiple local League, State and Sectional USTA titles have been earned by St James teams. Note that St. James restricts USTA teams to Club members, giving us a much smaller group from which to select.

Troon offers competitive Club Tennis Championships each year to recognize the talents within their membership. Club Champions are named for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles at skill levels from 2.5/3.0, 3.5 and 4.0. Both Women's and Men's ladders have been added in 2023 to promote tennis singles play at no cost to members.

The St. James Tennis Association offers monthly round robin events for singles, men's, women's and mixed doubles. These events have been a staple since the very beginning of SJTA and continue today. The semi-annual Teams tournament is a great vehicle for creating interaction between players who are randomly selected to come together for a two-day tournament. Instant camaraderie is created as the teams work to understand partners and how to win together. Many friendships and tennis partners have started with this event.

The SJTA program, 'New to St James Tennis', provides a road map to newcomers on all available activities. This program helps our new residents to quickly feel at home within the St James tennis community. As they are encouraged to join in on activities, they begin to know other tennis players, giving them a sense of belonging here.

In 2023 the SJTA board approved a complete change to the social calendar for the year. The new events were planned to provide social activities which would attract SJTA members of all levels and ages, to promote interaction between members who might not normally cross paths.

New events included:

- **Watch parties for all the Grand Slam tournaments** – Open to everyone, SJTA members were charged \$10, non-members \$15. Food served for each complemented the host country.
 - The Men's Finals of the Australian Open included trivia on the tournament with prizes for those in the know.
 - The French Open was for the Women's Finals and featured a fashion show with several of our tennis players modeling the best of current athletic attire.
 - Wimbledon was cancelled since many people were traveling during that time.
 - The Men's Finals for the US Open will be celebrated as an outdoor event with multiple large television sets, games on the lawn and a cookout for attendees.
- **Social round robins** were added to our schedule to celebrate full moon evenings and special holidays such as St Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo and the Summer Solstice. Each round robin was played with different formats such as triples and a team style of play. The various formats integrated players from all levels of play. Food and activities were a part of each and complemented the occasion. These events were offered to our members at no charge.
- **Slammin' & Jammin'**, the Spring kick-off & fundraiser, held in March, was a week-long event which incorporated fun tennis activities, an evening auction event and a wrap-up cookout. Tennis activities included a Teams format tournament, a raffle for an opportunity to play a set with one of our teaching pros against another member and teaching pro. A particularly fun portion of the activities was the Carnival Skills. Members were challenged to play with a giant racquet and the world's smallest racquet. Serving speeds were clocked and participants were challenged with hitting the balls to and through certain targets. Over \$22,000 was raised to benefit **Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas**.
- SJTA joined with the St. James Pickleball Association for a beach party. Bringing players from both racquet sports together proved to be a fun experience for all. Music, dancing on the beach and games provided entertainment as over 100 people enjoyed getting to know more about each other's sport.
- In April, the SJTA organized a bus trip to The Charleston Open. The day trip gave several their first opportunity to see a professional tournament.
- **SJTA Member Appreciation Week** will be held October 9 – 14 with multiple activities for our members to enjoy, including:
 - Four reduced price clinics for one hour each. SJTA will supplement the cost of the clinic to allow members a chance to participate for almost half of the normal rate.
 - Yoga for tennis sessions. One-hour sessions will be offered for men and women separately at no charge
 - Carnival Skills – speed of serve along with a number of humorous challenges with a tennis theme

- Food and music will make the evening of the 11th fun for all – free for members.
- ‘Swap Don’t Shop’ will be a swapping event for gently used athletic clothing. No money will be exchanged. Leftover clothing will be donated to the local thrift shop whose proceeds benefit the Brunswick County School System.
- A special gift is made available for each member of SJTA during this week. This year’s gift will be a cooling towel and a drawstring shoe bag.
- The Club Mixed Doubles tournament will round out the week.
- The **SJTA Holiday Party** is the highlight gala of the year offering a chance to dress a little sparkly, enjoy a special dining experience and dance the night away to a great band. Everyone looks forward to this evening with attendance expected to be around 175.

SJTA provides a Weekly Report each Sunday with information regarding upcoming tennis social events, tournaments, Round Robins approaching and any other pertinent information for the tennis community. Registration for all events is conveniently handled through the Association’s website – <http://www.sjtanc.org/> The recently expanded website contains complete information on all tennis activities, including USTA League information and important tips for new members. Photos of events are maintained here for all to enjoy.



Section 3 - Other comments including sponsorships, achievements, tennis awards received by organization. Max 800 characters:

In 2022, the following teams participated in post league championship play:

USTA – SOUTHERN TENNIS LEAGUE

- Women’s 3.0 55+ Doubles
- Men’s 3.0 55+ Doubles
- Men’s 3.0 65+ Doubles
- Men’s 3.5 55+ Doubles – STATE CHAMPIONS
- Men’s 3.5 65+ Doubles
- Men’s 4.0 55+ Doubles
- Women’s 6.5 55+ Combo
- Men’s 6.5 55+ Combo
- Women’s 6.5 65+ Combo
- Men’s 6.5 65+ Combo
- Men’s 7.5 55+ Combo
- Men’s 7.5 65+ Combo
- Mixed 7.0 55+
- Mixed 8.0 55+

Southern Sectional

- Men’s 6.5 65+ Combo
- Men’s 3.5 55+ Doubles – SOUTHERN CHAMPIONS

Nationals

- Men’s 3.5 55+ Doubles

The Clubs at St. James have been awarded the Distinguished Club Award by Boardroom Magazine, an international award based on service and member experience.