



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI'S 2020 FOUR WINDS INVITATIONAL WILL BE HELD JUNE 12 – 14

*The ninth annual tournament will take place at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend*

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – February 4, 2020 – The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds® Casinos are pleased to announce that the 2020 Four Winds Invitational will be held from Friday, June 12 through Sunday, June 14 at Blackthorn Golf Club, located at 6100 Nimtz Parkway, South Bend. The ninth annual tournament will feature a field of professional women golfers from around the world competing on the Symetra® Tour – Road to the LPGA®. The 2020 tournament will include 144 golfers who will play for a \$150,000 purse.

“The Four Winds Invitational has become the premiere summer sporting event in South Bend,” said Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Chairman of the Pokagon Band. “Not only do thousands of people come out each year to watch these talented players compete and earn their way on to the LPGA Tour, but we have generated over \$1 million in prize money and raised close to \$700,000 for Beacon Children’s Hospital over the past eight years. We look forward to having another successful tournament again this year.”

The Four Winds Invitational has proven to be a great place to see some of the future stars of the LPGA Tour. Brooke Henderson, who won the 2015 Four Winds Invitational, went on to become a seven-time LPGA Tour champion. Countless other Four Winds Invitational players have also went on to successful careers on the LPGA Tour, including 2016 champion Jackie Stoelting.

“The Pokagon Band and its Four Winds Casinos have transformed the start of the summer for so many people in South Bend,” said Tim Firestone, Owner and General Manager of Blackthorn Golf Club. “It has turned out to be such a thrill so see these young golfers succeed here in South Bend, and then move on to greater success on the LPGA Tour.”

The Four Winds Invitational is one of four Symetra Tour events that are part of the Potawatomi Cup, which highlights the contributions of four member Tribes from the Potawatomi Nation who host tournaments throughout the Midwest. A total of \$40,000 in bonus money is available to players based on performance, including \$6,000 to the winner of the Potawatomi Cup. This is in addition to the normal purse payout for each event.

### **About the Four Winds Invitational**

The Four Winds® Invitational was established in 2012 as part of the Symetra® Tour - Road to the LPGA®, and is sponsored by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds® Casinos. It is held at

Blackthorn Golf Club, located at 6100 Nimitz Parkway, South Bend, Ind. The tournament features a field of professional women golfers from around the world. More information is available at [www.fourwindsinvitational.com](http://www.fourwindsinvitational.com).

### **About The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians**

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' sovereignty was reaffirmed under legislation signed into law by President Clinton in September of 1994. The Pokagon Band is dedicated to providing community development initiatives such as housing, education, family services, medical care and cultural preservation for its more than 5,700 citizens. The Pokagon Band's ten-county service area includes four counties in Southwestern Michigan and six in Northern Indiana. Its main administrative offices are located in Dowagiac, Mich., with a satellite office in South Bend, Ind. In 2007, it opened Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Mich., followed by Four Winds Hartford in 2011, Four Winds Dowagiac in 2013 and Four Winds South Bend in January 2018. The Pokagon Band operates a variety of businesses via Mno-Bmadsen, its non-gaming investment enterprise. More information is available at [www.pokagonband-nsn.gov](http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov), [www.fourwindscasino.com](http://www.fourwindscasino.com) and [www.mno-bmadsen.com](http://www.mno-bmadsen.com)

### **About the Symetra Tour**

The Symetra Tour is the official qualifying tour of the LPGA Tour and enters its 40th competitive season in 2020. With the support of its entitlement partner Symetra, the Tour's mission is to prepare the world's best young women professional golfers for a successful career on the LPGA Tour. Since Symetra's inaugural sponsorship year in 2012, the Symetra Tour has grown from 16 tournaments and \$1.7 million in prize money to a record \$4.0 million in prize money awarded in 2019. With more than 600 alumnae moving on to the LPGA, former Symetra Tour players have won a total of 445 LPGA titles. Follow the Symetra Tour on the web at [www.SymetraTour.com](http://www.SymetraTour.com), as well as [www.facebook.com/Road2LPGA](https://www.facebook.com/Road2LPGA), [www.twitter.com/Road2LPGA](https://www.twitter.com/Road2LPGA) and on Instagram @road2lpga.

### **About Symetra**

Symetra Life Insurance Company is a subsidiary of Symetra Financial Corporation, a diversified financial services company based in Bellevue, Washington. In business since 1957, Symetra provides employee benefits, annuities and life insurance through a national network of benefit consultants, financial institutions and independent agents and advisors. Symetra began its partnership with the Road to the LPGA in 2010 as the title sponsor of the Symetra Classic. It secured naming rights for the Symetra Tour in November 2011. In addition to its title sponsorship of the Tour, which runs through 2021, Symetra sponsors two events on the tournament schedule—the Symetra Classic and the season-ending Symetra Tour Championship. For more information about Symetra, visit [www.symetra.com](http://www.symetra.com).

###

### **Media Contacts:**

David Gutierrez, Dresner Corporate Services, (312)780-7204, [dgutierrez@dresnerco.com](mailto:dgutierrez@dresnerco.com)  
Joshua Taustein, Dresner Corporate Services, (312)780-7219, [jtaustein@dresnerco.com](mailto:jtaustein@dresnerco.com)  
Zach Sepanik, LPGA Tour Media Official, (386) 795-0594, [zachary.sepanik@lpga.com](mailto:zachary.sepanik@lpga.com)

