

Q&A with Jacqueline Cherry July 2016



For Ace-level player Jacqueline "Jackie" Cherry, The First Tee of Howard County has been much more than just a golf program. Read our recent Q&A with the rising junior at Howard High School to hear in her own words how The First Tee has impacted her since joining at age ten.

Q: Why did you first get involved with The First Tee?

A: I first got involved when there was a clinic where there were many activities surrounding the game of golf while incorporating life skills. I had so much fun and met many people who also enjoyed the sport, so I signed up for the classes and have loved it ever since.

Q: Did playing with The First Tee motivate you to also get involved with your school's golf team?

A: The First Tee allowed me to get involved with golf and really helped me fall in love with the sport, and because of this, I joined my high school golf team. I have been on the Howard High School golf team for two seasons, and I will continue for the rest of high school. I was able to be the first person from my golf team to go to states, and in my sophomore year, I placed fifth.

Q. What has been your favorite experience with The First Tee?

A: I love meeting new people through The First Tee and connecting over our shared interest of golf, so my favorite experience with The First Tee is definitely when I had the opportunity to go to Blaine, Minnesota last July for the *Life and Leadership Academy* and meet other people from all over the country. Ninety-six participants, including myself, were selected after applying, and over the seven days we had so much fun on and off the course while learning many leadership skills that we could share with our chapters. It was one of the most fun weeks I have had, and I can't wait to go to more participant opportunities.

Q: What's the biggest lesson you've learned from participating in The First Tee?

A: I have learned so many valuable lessons from The First Tee, but my favorite ones would have to be STAR and perseverance. I use both of these in my daily life, whether it's on the golf course or at school, and they are so helpful. Whenever an issue arises, I use STAR (stop, think, anticipate, respond) to reevaluate the situation, and perseverance to keep pushing through the challenges I face.

Because of The First Tee, I have found my passion in golf and have been playing competitively for almost two years. ♪