

Meet Tiffany Parker-Hill: A Full-Time Student and Eagles Cheerleader

Julie Wood
Editor



You've seen her perform with La Salle University's dance team for the past three years at basketball games at the Tom Gola Arena, but now Tiffany Parker-Hill has continued her love of dance and performing at Lincoln Financial Field as a Philadelphia Eagles cheerleader. Sporting her Eagles hat, Hill recounts when she first found out about making the cheerleading team.

"There's an open audition that happens every year with over 300 girls," Hill recalls. "Everyone comes out, auditions, we learn the dances, and then it just dwindles down from there; and then we have finals, and from there, a deal is made."

This is Hill's first year as a member of the team, but she has had years of experience in dance, readying her for this goal in her life. "One of my dance teachers was an Eagles cheerleader, so I looked up to her and admired her. I've been dancing my whole life, and I've been trained in ballet, tap, jazz, African, hip-hop, everything."

Hill is used to performing in front of audiences as a member of the La Salle dance team and taking classes growing up, but nothing prepared her for this new dance environment--a venue of close to 100,000 fans and being seen on television during the games. While she got a taste for what would ensue at pre-season games, the excitement from the crowd wasn't truly felt until the Eagles' home opener game. "It was a big production. There were fireworks. They had a super huge Lombardi trophy out there on the field, and of course, they brought the actual one that the owner of the team brought out with him. We were just watching all the fans; they're yelling, screaming, and you can feel the ground rumbling. We see ourselves up on the jumbotron. It's an extraordinary experience to be on the field."

Not only was it Hill's first time performing for an Eagles game, it was also her first time attending a football game in general. "I've never been to a high school or college football game," Hill shares. "I've never been to a football game my entire life, but my first football game was an NFL game."

Being an Eagles cheerleader requires much time and dedication, not only performing at games, but also going to practices, rehearsals, making public appearances, and having opportunities to volunteer in the community. "We did a playground build, and that's something

we do annually,” Hill explains about her first volunteer experience with the Eagles. “We pick an elementary school within the community, we interact with the kids there, and we give them a new playground. We even got to work on a mural that the kids did. I’m not an artist, but it was a paint by number system, and it was a really nice experience.”

While she enjoys performing at games with her 35 fellow teammates, a highlight of her time so far has been being able to bond with them and receiving advice from the other cheerleaders. While shooting the 2019 Eagles cheerleader calendar in Mexico, Hill was able to connect with her teammates on a deeper level. “There’s so many of us. We’re at rehearsals or practices, and we don’t really get a chance to talk. It’s not play time; it’s work time,” shares Hill. “Definitely out in Mexico I had a chance to bond with everybody, and everybody was so nice, so beautiful on the inside and out. We all work hard, and the girls I’m on the team with have full time careers. We have nurses, teachers, lawyers, and of course, full time students like me.”

Hill looks forward to cheering for future games, still unable to believe that she has accomplished a lifetime dream of hers. “Every time I leave for practice or rehearsal, I just can’t believe I’m there. I pinch myself every time. It’s like a dream come true.”