

## **How the First Tee of St. Petersburg Changed My Life**

**By Devon Rogers**

I have been an involved member of the First Tee of St. Petersburg for about 7 years. I can honestly say my experience has been nothing but good. I started as a participant in their camps to improve my golf game and so my parents could get me out of the house on weekends or during the summer. Now I have been a youth mentor with the First Tee for three and a half years. I am currently working my third summer with the First Tee of St. Petersburg. I still attend their advance camps, which has done wonders for my golf game.

With the First Tee of St. Petersburg you don't just get golf instruction. You learn how to become a better person. Their various life and leadership skills have helped me get through my first two years in high school and they have helped me in the toughest life situations. All I have to do is remember to "be patient, be positive, and ask for help!"

The First Tee of St. Petersburg has allowed me to do so many new things that I would never have gotten a chance to experience without them. I have gotten the chance to walk inside the ropes at the Transitions Championship and to go see Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson in Orlando. Now, thanks to the recommendation of the amazing Coach Tom and Coach Rick, I get the chance to go to Phoenix for the First Tee Life Skills and Leadership Academy, FOR FREE!!

The First Tee has been a huge part of my life for many years and I have loved every minute of the experience. Coach Tom and Coach Rick have become some of the most supportive people in my life, behind my family of course. They have helped me develop into a great person with their great insights. They have also turned me in to a pretty good golfer.

Over these past three years as a volunteer I have gotten the chance to see many kids go through the First Tee camps. I have been helping kids learn the game of golf and how to grow into great citizens. Through these experiences I have become a better person myself. It is not only helpful to go through the camps yourself, but to see how other kids react and learn.