



## Feature Story

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### **There's no place like Alpha Phi**

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill.–Happy yells are heard all around the quad as 20 girls tackle one innocent girl. She falls to the ground, covered by the others, and in 10 seconds is back up, jumping with joy and hugging those who just brought her down.

As a bystander, one would see Greek letters and over 400 girls filled with too much energy for an early Saturday morning. To many, this may seem crazy, but to the Greeks this is one of the most important days of the year – bid day!

So, what is bid day exactly? Well, bid day is the very last day of rush week where the Collegiate Panhellenic Council sororities accept their new members. For a whole week, sorority chapters go through rounds of meeting potential new members. During these rounds, the potential new members learn about what the different chapters have to offer them while the chapters learn all about the potential new members.

Hannah Friedenbach, a junior in Alpha Phi, talks about how stressful rush week is, but also how it's all worth it on Saturday. "We work so hard and for so long to make everything perfect during the week," said Friedenbach. "It is extremely stressful, but it is always worth it when we finally get to accept our new sisters."

After all of the running and tackling is done at the quad, the new Alpha Phis all load into vehicles and head to Airplane Park. Here they enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, salad and cupcakes. Old members all engage in conversation with the new members, happy to be together and finally stress free.

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After everyone is finished eating, the new members introduce themselves to everyone. They tell their name, their year in school, their major and what they are most excited for in Alpha Phi. Veronica Vesper, a senior in Alpha Phi, says that this is one of her favorite parts of the day. “I love hearing what all of the new girls’ majors are. It is amazing to see how so many different wonderful women are coming together to form sisterly bonds,” said Vesper.

So, if you’re ever walking through the quad and happen to hear a bunch of screaming coming from a large group of girls, do not be alarmed. It is probably just bid day. And if you want to have a hundred plus sisters, consider going through rush week and joining Alpha Phi. It is amazing to have such a bond with so many sisters and to know that they will always be there for you no matter what happens. Alpha Phi is not just for four years. It’s for life.

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