



Team 400m gets
Girl Powered!

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I absolutely loathed the idea of being another Marks Robot Fanatic.

My brothers were both so much better at robotics than I was. They love video games and writing code. Whenever it was brought up by one of them, I waved them off by saying, "You are a robot-head. I, on the other hand, am a reading and writing child. I love talking to actual people. You both, however, would rather command a robot!"

Interest wise, my brothers and I couldn't be more different. They drone on to their friends about the newest addition to their bot, while I am excited about drama, Animal Jam, or the latest Harry Potter book. They spend spare time watching Vex YouTube videos and tinkering with their machines. I use my spare time swimming, reading, and texting friends. I like to invite friends over to play, but they invite them to see how well a new robot design works. Anyways, look at these two, the kings of Roboland in all of their glory...



My little brother, Milo, wanted a team of his own. He asked me to be the other driver. I said "No." Then he tried to get me interested in building the robot. I refused. Many times.

"Hey, where's the fun in NOT being the first to do something?" I wondered.

And robotics? Definitely not my thing.

He was just so
PERSISTENT!



It's all he would
talk about at my
birthday party,



at the art museum,



and when we went out to dinner.
He was SO PERSISTENT!



Dawn to dusk, he kept asking me to join his team. He was just SO PERSISTENT. I never knew when or where he would pop up!



I finally gave in and agreed to join the team. I wasn't happy about it, though.

We began to build, practice, destroy, and rebuild... build, practice, destroy, and rebuild. We did this over... and over... and over... until my fingers were sore.

But soon I started having ideas and seeing solutions for problems we were having with the robot.

And just like that, 400M was running on



GIRL POWER!

I bet you think that Girl Power means tutus, high heels, tiaras, flowing hair, and pink rainbow glitter sparkles...



...But really it means that now, 400M is powered by THIS girl.

THIS girl is going to bring all of her unique talents and ideas to make our team and our robot the best they can be. THIS girl can lend a hand when times get rough. THIS girl has what it takes to be a valuable member of the team!

I think you have
the controller
upside down!



Hmmm, if I
change that gear,
the robot will be
slower but
stronger!



THIS girl has crazy skills. I am a fast learning robot driver. I am excellent at communication, which will help when planning matches with our alliances. I am a creative thinker, by usually giving a unique perspective on problems.



We soon went to our first competition, where we were brutally defeated. All of the other robots seemed like LIONS compared to our tame little kitten of a robot.

MEOW!



As we worked and the robots got more complicated, I started discovering more and more robotic things I liked to do. Who knew I would like to write code, or take the lead role building a part of the robot? I could see myself in the future writing code for a life-saving machine.... or designing my first book on Photoshop... or maybe inventing the first functioning time machine!





By the time we got to our next competition, we realized how much our hard work and learning had paid off. We weren't the rookies anymore. We are LIONS now.

ROAR!!!!



Robots Anyone?

Now I love this robotics thing.
There is definitely a place for
me and my skills among
motors, shafts, and gears. I can
see how I can bring my GIRL
POWER to a career as
engineer, a team leader, or a
teacher. I can't wait for the
future, when I'll be able
to do anything I want
... even if it has to do
with robots!

From "No" to "GO!" ...Credits

Team 400M: Dallas and Milo Marks
Galveston Island Robotics / Oppe Elementary
Coach: Dave Wallace
Mentors: Brian Massey and Mrs. Pistone
K.C. and Dan Marks
Maxx, Charlie, Daniel, and Harold

Created by Dallas Marks who
now has another mad skill:
Photoshop Elements10

