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This Vex IQ season has changed our view of the engineering field. Instead of being afraid to express our passion for engineering, we are excited to share how great female engineers can be. The number of female engineers in the present day is disappointingly low, so we are thrilled to be part of the new and growing group of girls and women.



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This season we were very short on time, and unexperienced, but it didn't stop us from learning all we could to do our best.
We placed ninth out of fifty-one teams at the

Junior Orange Bowl Vex IQ District Qualifier Rounds, in Miami Springs, Florida. We learned that working together is a great way to accomplish your goals. We also learned that engineering is fun!

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The District Qualifier started out strong.

Pictured here is the middle season robot, Osceola. Leila and one of her teammates worked strategically with an alliance team, Brainstorm. We worked together to eventually get both the robots balanced on the bridge. This earned us a top 25 points.

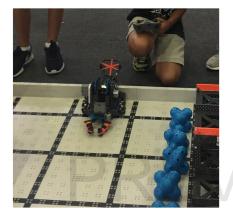
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Although we had a short amount of time to learn the programming and techniques of building, we quickly got to work to get the knowledge we needed about programming. We motivated each other and researched how our hard work could help others. Along the way we developed a love for programming that will encourage us in the future to pursue STEM studies.

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Osceola's build design was the most common design, the Clawbot IQ. It took us about nine hours to build it. Although the arms were difficult and so was the chasis, we were able to manuver through the build.

Programming was the one part of the building process that we were able to get through quickly and easily. The drag and drop system was very helpful and effective on our work.

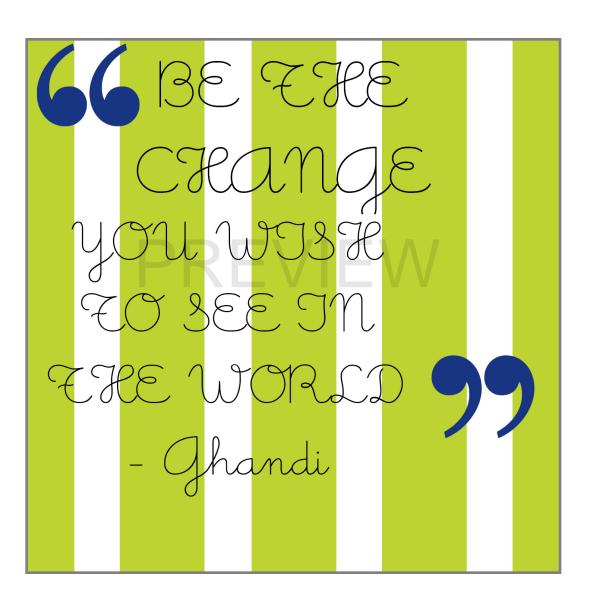


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Competitions were also very important and were the most exciting part of the robotics season. Different rounds of driving and acting out the skit was very fun. The time limit was challenging, but kept us focused and determined.

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Although we didn't make it to state competition, this experience was an amazing one. We learned as young engineers that winning isn't always what matters. As long as you try and learn during the process, we have acheived success. As girls, we bonded and worked together as a team. We really enjoyed this and hope we can inspire girls all over the world to do the same in an industry that needs GIRL POWER.

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