

Robotics Challenge: Girl Power

My name is Ana Green, I'm 12 years old, and have been in robotics for 1 year and now going on 2. I'm a girl. The word "Girl" is based on a stereotype. We have been taught that girls like pink, are perfect, long hair, play dumb, boy crazy and many more things that people think describe stereotypical girl. Well girls aren't that, girls are unique, they are smart, they don't care about boys all of the time, girls aren't perfect, they are imperfectly perfect. I am a girl, I like that I can say that but it does create problems. At competitions boys don't take me seriously especially when they see me as the driver of my team's robot. Last year, that happened a lot and now this year I know what is coming. I feel that girls can do most things as good as boys and even better. Such as Augusta Ada King. She is one of my STEM role models. She is most known for writing the first computer algorithm with Charles Babbage. When I found out she had created co-side with Charles Babbage I didn't know. A couple years ago I only knew half of the story, I knew and only thought that Charles Babbage created that mathematical algorithm on the computer. Her mother was the person who had to steer her in her mathematical education and I learned that you can do whatever you wanted to do when you have belief in yourself and other people believe in you. With that ending, my team has supported me all the way. I'm included in an all-girls team, we all are very close but with that; comes with some difficulty. We never want to hurt each other's feelings or tell each other what they are doing wrong. Over the past months though, we realized that telling each other our mistakes will improve us so much more than what we are now. We also know that the people on our team will always have different ideas, and we have to respect each other's ideas even if we think it's not going to benefit our team. Although, all of the ideas given have made our team better and made our relationship improve. In our team we have tried many different roles to put our best foot forward for our robot and for our team. Myself, I have tried to program, drive, build, and keep the notebook. I soon learned that programming wasn't my forte, but driving, building, and note booking was. From these roles; I have learned a lot, like responsibility from keeping the notebook up to date, adjustment to change from driving the robot, learning basic programming, and how to build whatever I put my mind to. My team is amazing and I couldn't ask for anything better. Most of us had been together since the first day of school while our other team mates had joined us just a bit after. We are a cohesive unit and together we are unstoppable. I am a girl in robotics, and girls can do just as good and if not better than the boys in robotics. One of the people who keeps me hooked on robotics is my coach. My coach encourages different types of people to join and I love that we are able to have an opportunity to be an all-girl team. Being a girl in robotics is amazing because people under estimate you, and when they do that you can show them who you really are. We train just as hard as the boys and work just as hard as the boys. My name is Ana Madison Green and I am so proud to say that I am a girl in an all-girl robotics team.