

Differences Don't Matter

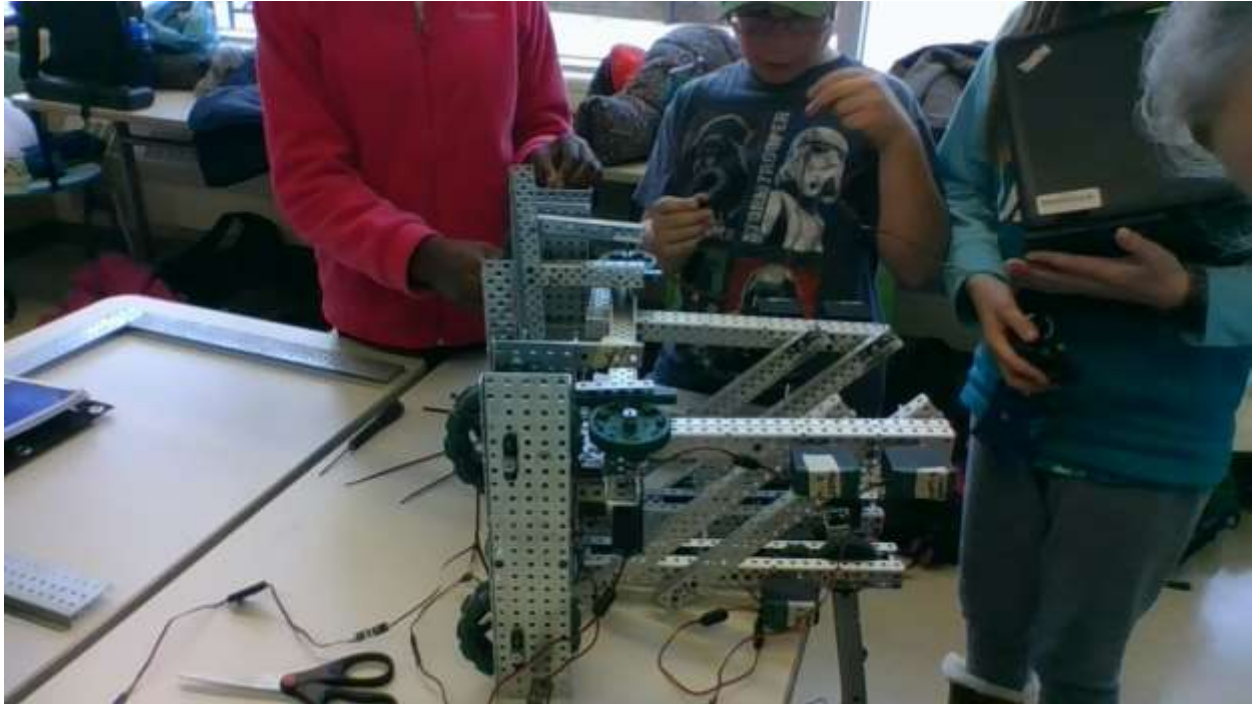
Have you ever been in a group that you feel everyone has to be very reliable? On our VEX robotics team, we all rely on each other to do well, and we work on everything to make sure it is improved. We all respect each other and the roles we play. We all support each other because we all have one goal, to win. We don't think about gender, race, or looks. Our team is like a body, we all have different parts and we all look different, but at the end we are all working on one thing. Girl Power on our team is very important, without it we would be lost, crazy, and probably mad people.

When the girls on our team hear the words "Girl Powered" one result was "What comes to my mind is strong and inspiring because boys think they are better at everything but the truth is that we are equal. There was robotics at Southgate, it was fun and I learned a lot about building and scouting." They also look back to our history when we were not able to get a credit card, we were not able to be technicians, we weren't even able to play dodge ball! Even today people are JUST NOW allowing girls to join the workforce. Women in the U.S. are paid only 77 cents for every dollar a man make and African American women make 64 cents for every dollar that men make! Today men start doubting when women do things like Front Line Fighting, and even playing golf! Girls have exceeded extremely compared to our rights in the early nineties.

On our team, girls think that sometimes we feel needed so we think deeper and we pick out the mistakes the boys make. Because sometimes girls get picky so we show the mistakes made and brainstorm ideas to fix it. Girls are also very smart; they love to work on harder things like building. Girls feel they need to stand up, so they chose a job that can challenge them. Everyone was able to experience and learn about each part of robotics at Boot Camp, which is a chance to learn parts of robotics. Engineering Notebook learns about how to write the Daily Log, they learn how to take pictures, and how to transfer the camera photos into your laptop. Builders learn the parts of the robot, how to put the robot parts away properly, and tips on building. The Programmers learn how to do Online Challenges, and they programmed the arm and chase of a test robot.

What we have learned about our jobs are that it is important to still be respectful in tough situations where we have disagreements. We also learn about how to always split the jobs that need to be done so that can agree and get work done faster. Robotics has changed teamwork because now we are finding new ways to communicate. We are now splitting work and multi-tasking. We also have to know different parts when we help participate in other jobs that people need help in.

We never fail, we are just always learning new things. We make *mistakes*, we have struggled a lot on the chase of our robot. We have struggled on size, equality and even the collars. The girls on the team feel like they need to be more interactive because of our history so they like to be more confident in their opinions. We become more determined and we want to work harder because of our history. We love all of the STEM role models for putting their selves in front of us so that they can take all of the doubt and mean comments people had for women. Our history was never okay, but we are thankful for the women who experienced the pain and discipline so that girls can have a better life today.



This is a picture of girls and boys on our team working together on finding ways they could improve the robot and it proves the boys and girls can do the same things as everyone else. It also shows that boys are no smarter or dumber than girls and that the only possible way you can be smarter is if you work hard and participate.

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Informational facts come from:

<https://www.bustle.com/articles/147995-4-things-you-wont-believe-women-still-cant-do-in-the-united-states-in-2016>, <http://msmagazine.com/blog/2013/05/28/10-things-that-american-women-could-not-do-before-the-1970s/>, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/12/us/because-i-was-a-girl-i-was-told.html>, and <http://www.womansday.com/life/real-women/a55991/no-women-allowed/>.