



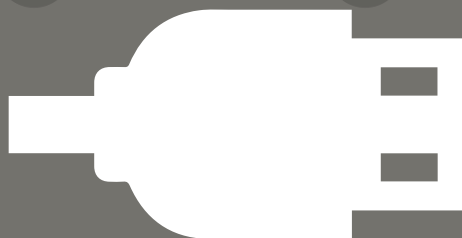
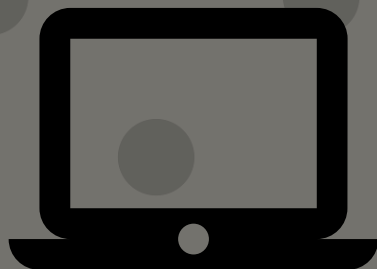
WHAT GIRL POWER MEANS TO OUR TEAM AND HOW WE UPHOLD IT

As the only two girls in a group of twenty VEX kids at our school, Maddy and I are encouraged to share our thoughts, stories, and experiences. What follows is a short collection of our views on

Girl Powered and its impact on our team, our opinions on diversity between the VEX Group, STEM role models that have inspired us, and our experiences with finding our place in VEX. When the topic of Girl Powered pops into our heads, Maddy and I form the same thoughts. To us, Girl Powered means female empowerment. It means equality in all things. It means giving everyone a chance, no matter their gender. To us, being Girl Powered is an important part of everyday life.

ROLE TESTING

Maddy and I have spread ourselves across the various aspects of the VEX skills and teams. Maddy was the captain of her team, which consisted of one female and six males. She was heavily involved with logbook organisation, leadership, game strategy, programming and building. I have been working on the logbook, game strategy and leadership. This is in unison with male counterparts who have assisted in logbook organisation and leadership, but they have primarily focused in programming, building and game strategy. Through testing the assorted areas that are involved in making a strong and prosperous VEX team, we have learnt where our strengths are, as well as our weaknesses, and how to express our passions through our work. Our teams also teach us, as we learn from each other and get the full experience, insight and understanding to what each member participates in.



DIVERSITY, INITIATIVE AND INCLUSION IS KEY

Our school creates an environment that is open and inclusive to everyone who wants to participate in VEX across year levels seven to twelve. (12-18 years of age). Our group is made up of two girls and four boys, which sets us apart from other teams. The ingrained values of inclusiveness, openness and diversity have carried over into how we created our VEX groups, by which we fell into our teams that were ethnically, structurally and skillfully diverse. Our team ranges in age, ability and areas of experience that allow us to create an inclusive environment that caters for everyone by assigning roles to every member of the team. In this, we can excel, have flexibility in when meetings are held, inform every member of the team as to what is happening in each meeting, cooperate when things do go wrong and participate in whole team problem solving to resolve issues that arise.

OUR ROLE MODEL

Our STEM role model would have to be our teacher, Miss Timms. She inspires us as females to pursue our passions that may be seen as male-dominated areas of interest and to get more females involved in STEM-related subjects and occupations. Miss Timms follows her passions by involving herself in voluntary STEM activities, such as co-ordinating our VEX Program, that require hard work, dedication and commitment. She is a motivational figure, leader and organiser within our school and broader community with her involvement in various extracurricular activities all year round. Miss Timms shows us that we don't have to change who we are in order to work in male-dominated areas and also that through exposure to these areas we can hopefully change any preconceptions and stereotypes towards STEM-related careers. Miss Timms motivates us with her positive attitude and her devotion for us to work simultaneously together for the best outcome and most of all; fun. She leads by example in working not only with us the students, but also in her own life when organising events such as our schools STEM expo, Digital Harvest, Into Science programmes, science camps and much more.



DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVE AND HOW THIS HELPS UP SUCCEED

Diversity of perspective influences the way we complete each task. Due to past experiences and diverse perspectives, different people are able to bring various ideas and opinions to the team, which changes the outcome of each task. Although diverseness can be a good thing, and can help the team succeed, a group of diverse people without an attitude of working together can set a team even further back. Through watching other teams that lack can-do attitudes, we have been able to input our diverse perspectives into the group in order to keep moving forward.

