

Girl Powered online challenge

Girl Powered is the initiative to get more girls involved in the STEM fields dominated by men. With the help of the REC foundation and VEX robotics more girls have explored the different pathways involved with Science, technology, engineering, and math. When our team hears the two word "Girl Powered" we think of female empowerment and allowing different people on our team. This can be shown through the diverse students on our team from various grades, genders, and ages. We have students from every grade and together we put forth our ideas and end up with functioning robots and good programs. everyone on our team has their own specific job, but we always seem to come together in the end helping each other tie the loose ends and fix the broken ones. In the picture below you will see our very diverse team. David Bashaw (senior), Trevor Howard (junior), Bryce Barton (freshman), Ethan Hardesty (freshman), Melissa Broadfoot (freshman), and not pictured Gavin Johnson (sophomore).



My team has shown great girl powered spirit by being supportive of everyone. Let's take this story for example. Imagine a girl walking in on the first day of high school VEX with no team and practically no one she knew. Most people already knew the others and had already formed their own teams leaving her to a select few. She talked to a team and talked about joining and they were ecstatic to have a girl be on their team. This girl was me and even though I'm only a freshman and this is my second year of VEX they still treat me like everyone else, hearing out my ideas and sometimes inputting them into designs.

Another example of us showing girl powered spirit can be seen in the picture below which displays our team helping out at a girl powered event. At this event we empowered young girls to join STEM fields and even taught them how to program a wait code on RobotC using swerve-bots. Adding to this we showed them how to set goals and let them have a little friendly competition with one another by seeing who could build the tallest tower using spaghetti noodles, tape, and a large marshmallow.



Our teams STEM role model is Mary Anderson, a female engineer whose invention is used every single years after it was made. You can see it in cars and it helps wipe away the rain. If you haven't figured out what I'm talking about yet it's the windshield wiper blade which was invented by Anderson in 1903. She is our STEM role model for a couple of reasons. One being that even though many people don't know her name or even that's she relevant at all they still use her invention all the time. Could you imagine being in the middle of a severe thunderstorm with no windshield wipers, it would be virtually impossible to see in front of you, but thanks to Mary Anderson we don't ever have to worry about that happening. Another reason she is one of our role models is because in the beginning of her invention being released it was not popular and not a commercial success but after around 40 years it was deemed a very useful item in cars and was seen everywhere. This example can be linked to robotics as even though a robot design might not be successful at first, with a little bit of tweaking and a whole lot of practice you can produce a successful robot.

Credits:

Entrants: Melissa Broadfoot, David Bashaw, Jack Bashaw, Trevor Howard, gavin Johnson, Ethan hardesty, and Bryce Barton

Team number: 6135H of Central Hardin High School

Title:

