

Dream Machine-CanyonHills 3671C

Hello! We are an all-girl VRC Team. Even though people out there say engineering is “a man’s job” we believe women have great potential and can be just as good as men. As long as we believe in ourselves, persevere, and do what we love.

Our Team

Our team consists of six girls:

Desiree Lepore-Mendez

Sagunya Malhotra

Natasha Liu

Kira Wongtonsarat

Samantha Fong

Meera Panchal

Team Picture

More Details

Our Role Model

Chelsea Clinton: A Woman, a Leader

Promotes girls in STEM

Vice Chair of Clinton Foundation

Strong politician

Proof that women do great in leadership

Our Diversity

We believe our team chemistry is a big role in our success. Some people believe that only one race is capable of success. We have Hispanic, Caucasian, Asian, and Hindu in our team. We believe that our diversity places a different perspective on our team. We all place our own thoughts and ideas into the team in order to improve. This also reflects on our success because of all our different backgrounds one person may know things the others don’t.

Our Roles in the Team

Present Roles

Right now, our roles are

Desiree LM: Captain (All jobs/Overlook team)

Sagunya M: Builder/Runner/Designer/Programmer/Driver

Natasha L: Builder/Runner/Designer/Programmer/Driver

Samantha F: Builder/Runner/Designer/Programmer

Meera P: Builder/Runner/Designer/Programmer

Kira W: Builder/Runner/Designer/Programmer/Driver

Our way of Roles

We only have the captain role which is for the more experienced in the team. This choice was the best choice because we don't want anyone to be upset over a role. Each one of us has the potential to do everything. Also, in our opinion the more knowledge you have the more successful and can find a passion for building, coding, or designing. Therefore, the more you learn at first, the better off you will be later on.

More

Our Journey in Girl Powered

Beginning

The team started in 2015 in the Nothing but Net Challenge by two eighth grade girls who started an all-girl team when robotics program began at Canyon Hills.

The First-Year Team

StarStruck Year

Dream Machine continued because one seventh grader, Sidney Ackerman, took over the team after the two captains left to high school. Every girl who then joined was in 7th grade. The team went through and made it to the state competition. We saw very few other all girl teams, which surprised us. There we won the Judges Award. Soon after we attended a Girl Powered Competition. We were inspired.

Second-Year Team

Third-Year Team

Dream Machine continued for the third year, now captained by me, Desiree Lepore-Mendez. Girl Power is important to me because I believe the world needs more girls in engineering. Girls in the world need to know there is no limit to their dreams, Girl Powered program shouts that out. That is our message. Now we have made it to the States Competition and plan to continue to the World Competition.

In the Zone Year Team

Our Team's View on Girl Powered

Desiree Lepore-Mendez

Hi! My name's Desiree. My journey in robotics began in 7th grade. I was in the first trimester robotics class, where there were few girls. There was a choice to either compete in a team, or to follow instructions on a clawbot kit. I decided to join the competition over the clawbot kit, mainly because I like to challenge myself. I soon became pit boss of the team, which last year was taking care of the robot overall, getting it from match to match and building it. As I went through the year I came to realize girl power is an important key. My thought of girl power is when a girl is strong yet compassionate, ambitious yet fair. I also came to realize what was an

important key to success. This included perseverance, the drive to succeed, and the eye on the future.

Sagunya Malhotra

Hi. I'm Sagunya. I first got introduced to robotics about two years back. It all started when I first went to STEM USA, there I discovered VEX robotics. When I got into Middle School in Canyon Hills I got to know Desiree and joined the Alpha all girls team. My first trimester elective was robotics, so I could work on and drive the robot during class. I learned more about how to think outside the box, and to build. My dad is also an engineer, so over the years he has taught me an awful lot about technology. During summer, we used to meet in the library. At the time, there was only Desiree and I on the team. Now we have a team of six. Our goal as a team is to get to the World's Competition. To me girl power is something that influences girls to be as good or better than the boys and to not hold back just because they are a girl. Any girl can do anything as long as they believe in themselves.

Natasha Liu

Hello, my name's Natasha. I was just browsing around the Canyon Hills website, when I saw that they were holding a robotics "camp" for the last few weeks of summer. I met the 3671C team there, at the time composed of Desiree and Sagunya, and they taught me everything about robots. I found that I like robotics quite a bit, so I decided to join the official team. Since then, we've had competitions all over Southern California, like in Poway and Lancaster. Robotics might be something that mostly boys do, so our all girls team is proof that girls can also do robotics, we can be anything we want to be, no matter what someone or a stereotype says about us. I have high hopes for Dream Machine, and I hope we will continue to get better in the future. Our overall goal is to get to Worlds, through trial and error, teamwork, perseverance, a fiery passion, and enthusiasm!

Samantha Fong

Hello, my name is Samantha. I was introduced by my friend who wanted me to join their team. However, I met the 3671C team, the Alpha, during robotics camp during the summer. I decided to join this all girls team. I enjoyed their belief in proving that girls could succeed in something that is most often associated with boys. I was very impressed with the team captain, Desiree, and I thought the group of girls were very bright and passionate. From there, I started working with the Alpha team, helping them with the robot and eventually taking it to competition. My goal for this team is to make it to World's, through teamwork, compassion, persistence, and enthusiasm. By achieving this, we are not only breaking stereotypes developed by this society, but we are also proving to ourselves that girls are capable of everything boys can do.

Kira Wongtongsarat

Hello, I am Kira. I got influenced into robotics by my brother, who is in FRC robotics. When I started coming to Canyon Hills I heard all this excitement about robotics. Thankfully I got into robotics for my elective and Desiree introduced me into VEX in the Zone. I immediately fell in love with robotics and joined the Alpha, team 3671C. One of the team mates introduced me to everything in the robotics room from gears to retainers. I think that girl power is really important at all times. I think that women now around the world have a higher chance to do anything they want. My goal this year in robotics is to win world's. When you have a bigger goal to work forward to, you work harder. In robotics, you might lose sometimes but you can still feel like a winner inside. Even if you want to win, it's not always about winning. It's about how you win and who you win with.

Meera Panchal

Hello, my name is Meera. I first found out about robotics when I got robotics as my elective for the first trimester. Our teacher, had lightly mentioned the robotics club and the competition team. I was interested in robotics, so I asked Sagunya for more information. I really like that this team represented girl power and that robotics is not only for boys, so I decided to join the official team and attended competitions too. To me, girl power is when a girl is able to stand up for herself and believe that she can do anything. I believe that a girl can be as successful as a boy, maybe more, in robotics. Now I am part of the team. I hope, that we continue to get better in the future. Our team's main goal is to get to Worlds and I believe that with teamwork and perseverance, we will be able to make it there. I really hope that our team is able to achieve this goal and show everyone the importance of girl power.

Credits

Entrants: Desiree S. Lepore-Mendez

Sagunya Malhotra

Natasha Liu

Samantha Fong

Meera Panchal

Kira Wongtonsarat

Team Number: 3671C

Team Name: Dream Machine-CanyonHills

Robot Name: The Alpha

Dream Machines