

Girl Powered: The Story of 27286G

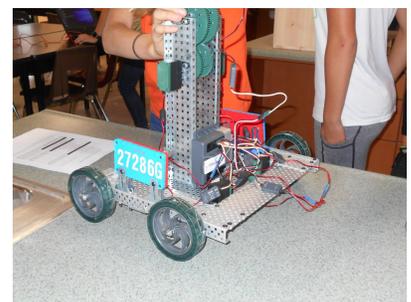
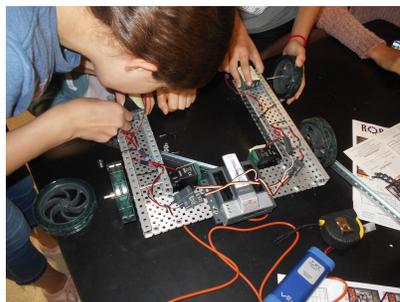
By: Victoria Marchetti



When you are at a Robotics competition, you are normally just working on your robot and collaborating with your team. However, this last competition, I looked up and took notice to how many girls there were. Trust me, my guess was one third of the room was girls, if not less. And there were not many full girl teams. Some, but not many. I understand why for this is 27286G robotics all girls teams story.

Our team started out with ten girls and within a week we dropped down to nine. Our team was to meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 10 in the morning, and at lunch if needed. We started out the robotics season planning and our team did not meet over summer break.

Back to school meant new ideas. We started building

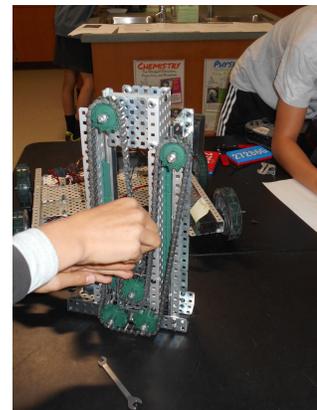
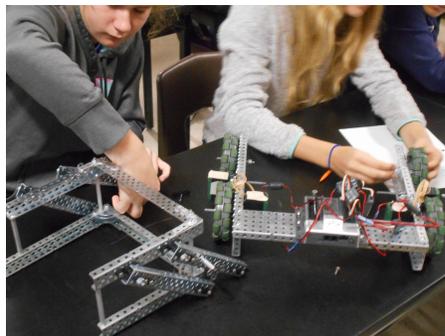
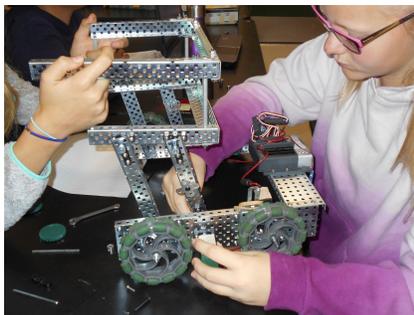
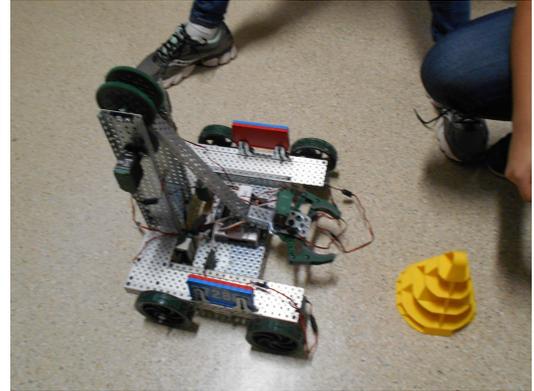


our robot. We started with a simple claw bot that just had a bigger base. With this first addition, a few challenges came our way. First we didn't have the correct size axles so we had to use to smaller ones that were joined together. These kept falling out of the wheels and since they were not passing through two pieces of metal, this made our base unstable. After a while and with all our teams

collaboration, we were able to think of a way to put together the two smaller axles with more support. That was the easy problem. Not long after this, our programming started to

have issues. We discovered that one of the wheels had a gear change and was a turbo. After swapping motors, our program still wasn't working how we wanted it to. This problem turned out being that the program was programmed to the wrong wheels. My teammates and I then went through and relabeled and switched the ports for the wheels to work correctly. There were still a few flaws in the program, which after a few weeks were sorted out. Finally, most of our major problems had been resolved. However we were now only a few weeks away from the second competition.

A new design followed for as our team captain said, "a clawbot can only get us so far." However both these new designs did not succeed. And our team was back to the beginning of using a modified clawbot.



This team has faced many challenges and has had many disagreements. I do think that this 27286G team could have done better if we weren't always arguing or getting mad at each other. In my personal opinion our team wasn't a team but more a bunch of solo players. I know now that Robotics is definitely a team sport.

To this team, Girl Powered helped us in many ways. We had different ideas, and even though things didn't always go so perfectly, we found a way through. We often had to ask ourselves, How committed are we? And I think our team always had the best answer. We want to show others what girls can do, so we are going to do all that we can.

I think that the best type of team would be a mixed team of girls and boys, so we could bounce ideas off each other more efficiently. For example me and my brother bounce more ideas off each other, however me and my sister get along better and can work faster side by side. And Girl Power means strength, it means power, it means ability, but most importantly it means teamwork and mindset.

