



More than robotics...

By: Sweetch

The word "girl" means a female child, usually still at school. Cambridge says that the word powered is something operated by the type of energy stated. Girl powered is more than a group of girls working on STEM, we are energy contained which is concentrated to change the world. But, what does the world need to change? The short answer is: all of us.

Since the creation of Sweetch in 2009 in Mexico City, we have been an all girls team, becoming the first team in Latin America and a big challenge. Our team had dealt with a lot of misogyny during competitions. As women in robotics we actually know what discrimination is. Sometimes when we arrive to competitions everybody stares at us as if we were from a different planet and makes us feel out of place. but as the competition moves forward, people understand that we are not the same as men, but we can have the same performance in robotics.

And that is why we love integration and sharing our happiness with the other teams no matter the color of their skin, their capacities, their religion, the way they think and their gender. We are may be different, but all of us have something in common: robotics. For us, it is really important the competition part and sharing during each challenge. Attending to competitions is more than winning or losing a match, each moment of a competition has given us the opportunity to gain knowledge from ourselves and from other teams to improve.

Our characteristics as a team are: effort, dedication, teamwork, optimism and comradeship, we love to share our experiences with other students, and we are always willing to help and learn from other teams. Throughout these years, we have learned that being a team's member does not only helps us to acquire knowledge, but we have developed many other skills as well.

In our team, when there are new girls the first task they do is building, programming and driving a Clawbot, then they have to design their own robot. Doing this, the new members can get familiar with the roles and discover which one of them fits better for them.



In the design the teamwork begins because all of the members make a brainstorm of how we think the robot should be made.



Sofi:

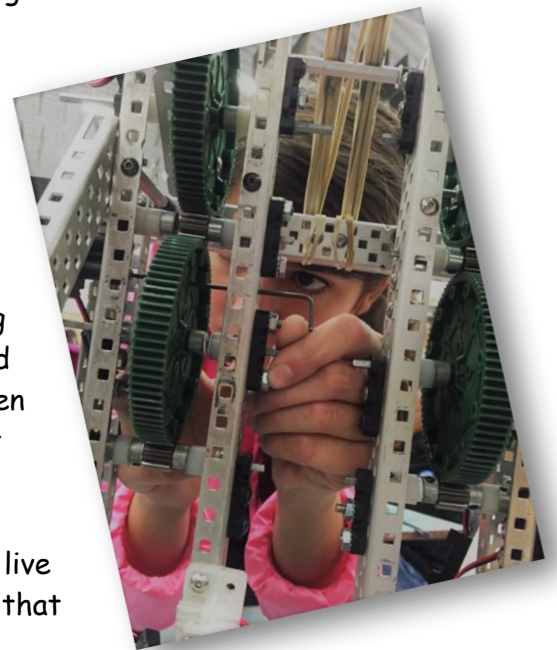
I joined Sweetch when I started middle school, since then, I had lived this experience in different ways. At first, I watched how big girls worked and I started building, but it was after months that I had my first competition being a driver; the feeling of being on the field is amazing. After that, I tried all the other roles. Being a programmer is fascinating, playing with numbers and programming the sensors so that everything is perfect is a challenge, but it helps you understand that the effort is worth it, because once in the competition you realize that all those frustrations and anger were worth it. But outside of having a role, teamwork and the commitment of each one is amazing, going to a competition knowing that your team will always be proud of you is very special. We get stressed together, we win

together, but above all: we support each other if we lose, because we lose together. All of them are my family and being on this team is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Xime:

As same as Sofi, I have been in the team since 2013 and it has been one of the decisions that changed my life forever. As everybody in Sweetch I began as a builder, I must say I am not the most kinesthetic person. Even though there is something in building that makes me feel certain peace, when I am stressed or angry and I build, all my senses are concentrated in that. When our driver left the team, I decided to give it a chance. The first competition I almost felt sick of nervous, but when I began to drive the joystick almost moved for itself. One of the biggest learning I have reach because of driving is living the moment, to live those 1 minutes and 15 seconds like if there were the only thing that matters and not willing to win, just to be there.

Sweetch gives me too much more than being part of a game, it gives me a family, a passion and a daily desire for making a better world through STEM, specially robotics.





Maria:

This is my first year as an official member of Sweetch 1119 team, before that I just came regularly to visit my friends and just helping them with making the place free of mess. The first thing I did being a Sweetch member was to undo the past robot, which was the experience that made me fall in love with robotics. And now, I am helping to create the new robot, not just by building it but also designing how it would look like, it has been very enjoyable. I've learnt much from the girls, coach, and in some way even from our robot Sharkbait and their own talents or how to get better in times of crisis.

Caro:

In the time I have been in the team, I have learned from almost all the roles that you have to be patient because anything comes out as planned in first try, creativity is necessary to transform simple ideas into something incredible. Also I learned how to commit to my team, which is by giving the best of me and working as a team. The work is not easy, but having a good team where everyone participates, share the same values and passion, it becomes fun.

As it is my first year, I thought I was going to have a hard time adapting and catching up with the others but they let me participate in a little bit of everything and now I know my place.



Alex:

I am the youngest member of the team, and it is my first year trying robotics. One of my best friends' sister is in robotics, Xime, and I thought I could have a lot of fun, and gain a lot of knowledge. When I built my first Clawbot, which I called Mike, I learned many things about programming and building. I have been a builder and a programmer in my team and learning more each month, and I have had a lot of fun doing it. I have learned much from both tasks and hope I can continue building robots in the future.

This year, we are a team of 5 members from different ages, ideas, and regions. We know diversity is really important for us, because our creativity and the different ideas we share are one of the things that will take us to the finals. Maybe not all of us are artistic, share the same opinions or dreams, but we know that having a united team it is more than working with other people, it means to complement them.

There is someone we really admire, a person who is millionaire, an inventor, an owner of Starks Industries and the most important thing, he is Iron Man. Maybe it sounds like a joke, but there is a deep reason we found an example to follow in this comic character. Tony Stark is a genius that creates not only weapons or things that "blow up" but also machines that can change the world, we would like to think that some day we will do great things like he does, a JARVIS for example.

He is part of one of the greatest teams in the history of the world, at least in MARVEL's world. The avengers are one of the weirdest team, they have different ideas, powers or abilities, strengths and weaknesses, they come from not only different places of the world, but of the universe, though they never discriminate each other. At first, he did not want to be part of a team, he said in one movie that he works better alone, but during the other movies and comics we know that even when he is sarcastic, bothers or discusses with the members, no matters what, he will always try to protect the ones he loves. That is what family does, and Sweetch is more than a team it is a family.

Maybe, we do not have superpowers, but we have other kinds of powers. Our intelligence, creativity, justice, respect, compassion, unity and, the most important of all, our love from each other, we are full of the greatest powers we could wish, and we with this, we can save the world. "Heroes are made by the paths they choose, not the powers they are graced of" - Iron Man



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