



# GIRL POWERED 8787A

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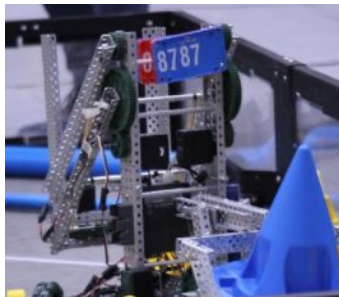


**Ground-Breaking**  
**Innovative**  
**Resilience**  
**Leadership**

**Persistency**  
**Opportunities**  
**Welcoming**  
**Equal**  
**Risk**

## What Girl Powered Means

Girl Powered not only empowers women to take on the challenge of defeating stereotypes, but opens the door for equal opportunities within STEM.



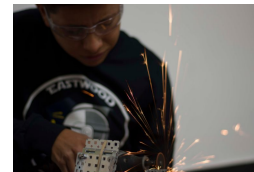
Unfortunately, girls in STEM lack the respect from their peers leading to the domination of men and the discouragement of women to explore and take interest in STEM fields. Since girls are viewed as less admirable to work with, teamwork is harder to achieve. The absence of respect and trust within a team only leads to constant failure and frustration. Since the development of this organization, diversity has increased within teams and enabled girls to be held in higher regard, leading to more **innovative** projects. Since VEX was founded, the number of girls in STEM has increased drastically as well as the Girl Powered message.

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## Eastwood's Approach

For two consecutive years, Eastwood has hosted the largest Girl Powered event.. Girls are invited from local schools and rotate through a total of 30 booths that address jobs within STEM. At our first Girl Powered event, we had a total of 350 girls attend. This year, attendance increased by 57% with more than 550 girls. Unfortunately, with a lack of girls in STEM, we were only able to have one girl at each booth. Also due to a lack of funds, each robotics member was tasked with finding at least one sponsor. With enough sponsorships and fundraisers, we were able to give each girl a free GP shirt. Most importantly, our goal was not only to help girls envision a future they are discouraged from pursuing, but to show them how achievable it is. Girls were not only presented a wide variety of new **opportunities** but were able to meet girls with the same interests and passions. Also, girls were shown how serious GP is by the amount of girls there. Unlike learning in a male supreme work field, GP shows that there are thousands of girls willing to take the **risk** of failure and defeat to prove how worthy they are. Over the past decade, there has been a significant increase of women working in Stem related careers. With events taking place all over the world, girl powered is working to increase these numbers and overall establish an **equal** future for all in STEM.





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## Team Jobs

Team 8787A has a total of 6 members; 2 girls and 4 boys. Each member is able to contribute different skills. While each person has a unique skill, we can all program, build and CAD. While some may be better in each category, we are able to rely on everyone, leading to faster robot production and the absence of competing for authority. While building, we have faced adversities such as; lack of materials, incorrect placement of parts on the robot, incorrect spacing and sizes, inconsistent runs and last minute fixes/ ideas. Through these hardships, each member has learned from their mistakes, gained respect for the ones that helped them, and have found new unique ways to understand STEM. We have also been able to gain personal relationships by working together, as well as learn each other's strengths and weaknesses. Instead of putting a teammate down for an error, everyone has an optimistic attitude towards what they can gain from their team. Most importantly, the close bond and equal amount of work from everyone discourages anyone from the thought of being better or worse than another. No one has a selfish attitude towards what they think is best and everyone's input is equally considered. Regardless of gender, team 8787A is an example of **persistence** and **resilience**.





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## Diversity

Everyone on team 8787A has the same goal but are completely different people. Whether differentiated by gender, interests or strengths, 8787A is a united and **welcoming** team. The club originally only had 3 girls in it (2013) but has increased to 13. Eastwood robotics originally had two teams until 2015 when we were introduced to our first All-Girls team ( 8787C ) Going into robotics, I had a choice of what environment i wanted to work in. I decided to join the one other girl in a male-dominated team. In any career you are forced to work with both men and other females and by joining this team I would be best prepared and given essential skills to work in future Co-Ed teams. At first, I was very hesitant to voice my opinion and disagree with my teammates. Now I am able to confidently share my ideas and possible solutions due to the encouragement from all my peers. Thus opinions, resolutions and ideas have been valued despite our gender. With both girls and boys on our team we are more accepting, patient and experienced. Because of this, 8787A has qualified for the VEX World Championships three years in a row. Throughout these years, the team has won West Texas State Champion (2014-15) Tournament Champion, two Excellence awards ( 2015-16, 2016-17 ) and Game Animation Challenge.( 2016-17) By accepting diversity, the team has overcome new obstacles and gone farther than imagined.



## STEM Role Model

2017 Miss USA stands as a prime example of defeating stereotypes. Many people view women taking part in beauty pageants as narcissistic and egotistical but Kára McCullough is a physical scientist at the



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Nuclear Regulatory Commission with a degree in chemistry and radiochemistry. She plans to use her title to serve as an advocate for women and young students in STEM. Unfortunately, many people only know Kára McCullough as “ Miss USA” and not what she really stands for. As someone as capable and ambitious as her, she will live on as a pretty face and nothing more. She took the stereotype of a vacuous yet beautiful girl destined to win and is now trying to empower as many women as she can to revolutionize what it means to be a girl in STEM.

## Overall

As one of the only two girls on my team, I have never been discouraged by my teammates. Unfortunately, I have been valued less by my classmates and teachers due to the fact that I am a cheerleader. Cheerleaders are stereotypically ignorant, simple minded and careless girls. Without the acceptance of my team and the determination to prove others wrong, I would not have the confidence and trust within myself to take on robotics. I have received many comments doubting my abilities in Stem simply because I wear a uniform that presumably minimizes my intelligence and hard work. From sayings such as “ How is it possible for a cheerleader to be in Stem? ” and “ Pick one. You don’t get to be in both ” from people I hardly know has never discouraged me from quitting something I love. I am an honor roll student that takes on multiple clubs besides robotics as well as AP classes. From what I’ve learned with girl powered, I know the only person that can bring me down is myself. With that said, a team can only fall from within. STEM is the future. But the future depends on





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the teamwork of both men and women and without girl powered, this may never be achievable.