

## **Engineer like a Girl**

**By VEX Team 599C**

In a world ruled by stereotypes, it is imperative that we break the mold that society has created for us. As girls in STEM, we tend to have the odds stacked against us, but this team has given us the opportunity to succeed, grow, and learn no matter our gender or race. Our team as a whole is almost 50/50 boys and girls, which has cultivated a nurturing environment where we can get involved with STEM and celebrate our passions freely. Our team accepts a multitude of people from all kinds of backgrounds in order to showcase the importance of diversity. We don't limit ourselves to what we know; we try to embrace our weaknesses so we can grow and improve. We have all been a part of drive team, building, and assisted with designing and notebook. We have all contributed and collaborated on every aspect of this robot, whether it be on the field or on paper. I've noticed that I've never been denied a position or opportunity on this team due to being a girl. It makes me proud to know that as women in STEM, we are paving the path for future engineers. As a girl, we are changing people's minds on what it means to be an engineer and that is something incredible. Having so much diversity on our team means we have people from differing backgrounds and experiences, which makes everyone bring something special to the table. It brings our team together because we all know what it means to be bound down by stereotypes. We all have the same drive to grow and learn. This encourages us to be the best team we can possibly be and to give it our all. We are proud to have a team comprised of 3 girls and 1 boy, all of different ethnic backgrounds. Being Girl Powered means that we celebrate everyone's abilities regardless of gender. Of course, being girl powered is only made possible by the many women who fought for a place in science. Without contributions from these women, it

would be nearly impossible to get a foot in the door. One influential woman is Katherine Johnson, who fought against racial and gender biases to show her true abilities. She was a mathematician whose work proved to be crucial for the success of the Freedom 7 mission. In addition to this, she took major strides towards respect to women in the STEM field. Her contributions have changed the way people see women in STEM fields. Without having a woman like Katherine Johnson, many girls wouldn't have someone to look up to or empower them. Role models inspire people into believing that their dreams are possible. She has inspired us to challenge ourselves and to prove that our abilities are not diminished just because we are girls. Being Girl Powered is having passion, love, and determination. Being Girl Powered means being an engineer, and nothing will ever change that.

Credits:

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Title: Engineer like a Girl