

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of white and light blue lines that resemble a circuit board or a stylized tree. The lines are vertical and horizontal, with small circles at the ends, creating a complex, branching pattern.

GIRL POWER

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44691T

A FOCUS IN STEM

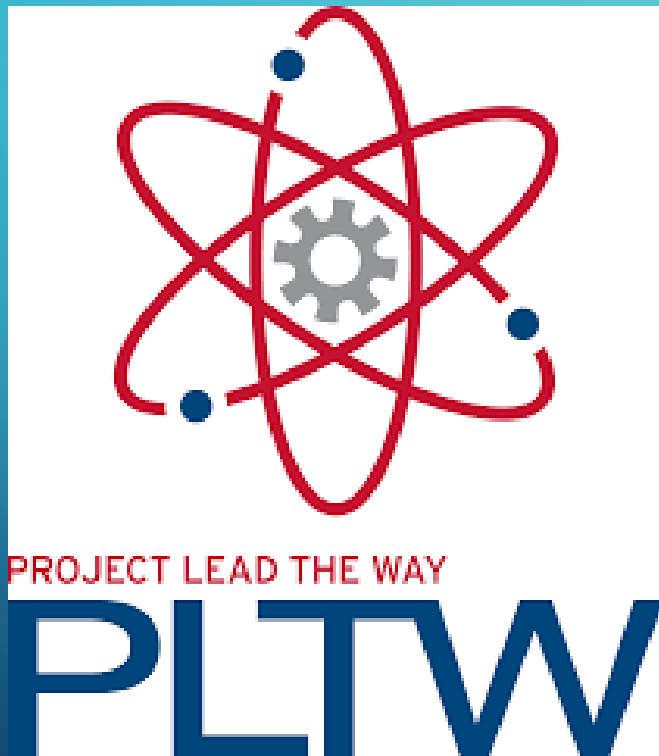
My name is Christina Sayre. I'm a part of team 44691T, Wooster Robotics: General Disappointment. Since being a little girl I've never had the typical feminine personality. I was the little girl who wanted to play with Legos and Knex. I was fascinated by snap circuits and just other toys of the sort. It wasn't "normal" for a girl to play with these things because they were all branded towards boys.

I've had to grow up with social constructs telling me building and science were for the boys. This never stopped me but has always stuck with me. Going into middle school and even high school I discovered a love of math and science and eventually STEM as a whole. So when I had the opportunity to take an engineering class in high school, I took it.



STEM

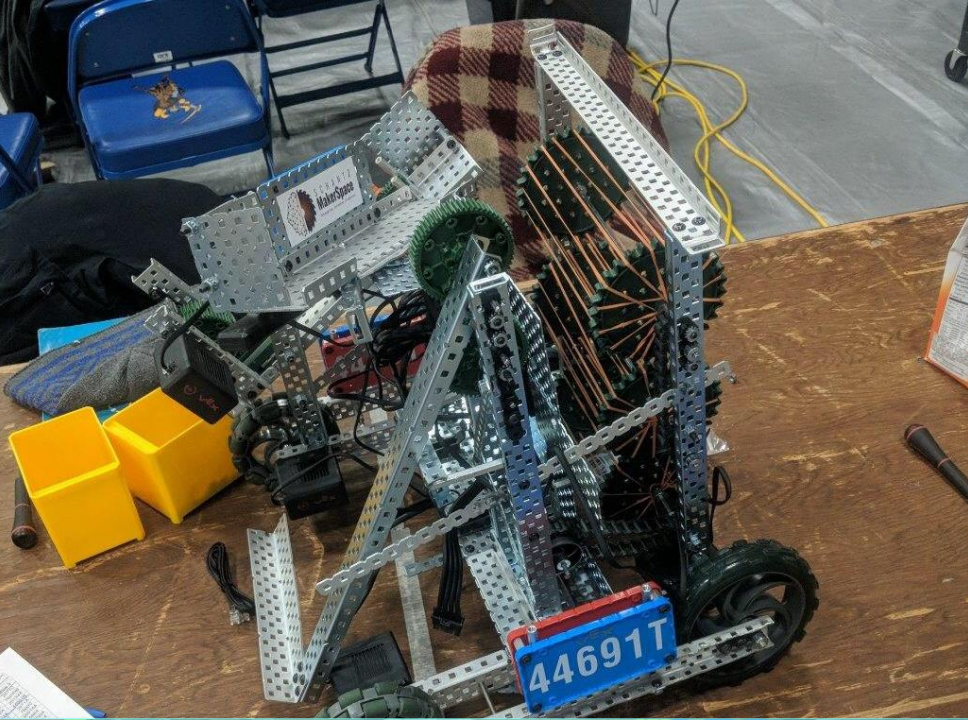
PROJECT LEAD THE WAY



My school has Vex robotics as one of the advanced classes of the PLTW pathway. My team consists of 3 guys and me. I'm no stranger to being one of the very few girls in STEM related classes and extracurriculars. In the introductory course I was 1 of 4 girls to take the class. This never really meant much to me. In the second course I was one of two girls. Here I started to feel out of place. There was a lot of hands on and working together and it was really hard because everyone had their friends and I was just there. Joining robotics in my 3rd year on the PLTW pathway, I was originally the only girl signed up. I can hold my own so I wasn't worried.

A MISUNDERSTANDING

Going into the class I was really excited. Being the only girl in the class someone once told me I would have the choice of boyfriends in the class. I was shocked. I don't do STEM to be around guys and this was the first time it occurred to me that this idea was what some people thought. My interest in stem and robotics was never determined by who was going to be in the class with me. Robotics has always been my interest and it was demeaning to hear that someone would think that boys would be one of my reasons for being involved. The idea of science, and now robotics, was for the boys once again became a struggle I had to address.

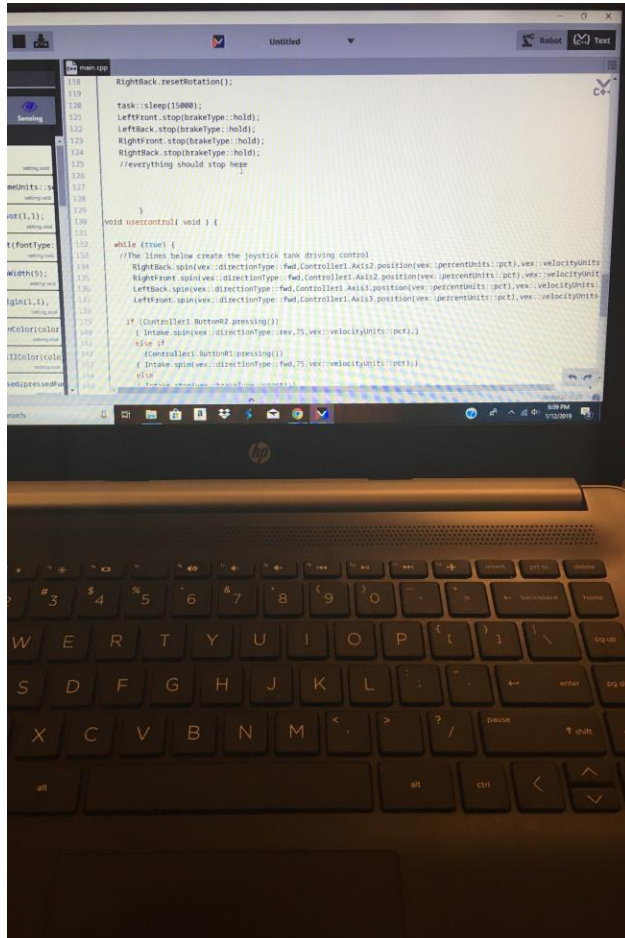


GIRL POWERED

Our team is girl powered because we don't see a difference because of gender. We support each other regardless of gender. This inclusivity has created an environment within our team that allows ideas to flow freely and for us to work together well. During the design process, one of the major steps is brainstorming, brainstorming creates a wild slew of ideas which comfortability help bring out within a team. We've been through two vastly different robot designs that wouldn't be what they became if it wasn't for many moments of "What if we....".

ROLES IN OUR TEAM

Our team has always been open to everyone taking equal part in the roles on the team. Typical gender roles don't matter. If you can build, then build. If you can code, then code. Skills are utilized and not just reduced to a reason as simple as girls keep the notebook or girls keep the workspace clean. It allows things to get done much more efficiency when everyone can work to their strengths



DIFFERENCES ASIDE

I'm so lucky to have such a great group of guys who are more focused on my skill set than my gender. When team members put aside differences like gender, an inclusive environment allows everyone to feel accepted and safe with their ideas.



CONTINUING TO SUPPORT

So our team will continue to support equality through any gender by focusing on skillset. Even though we may not have faced many of the typical ideas of what a girl might experience, we avoided issues by acceptance. Gender roles have never and will never exist within our team. Everyone has something to contribute and that is what Girl Power truly tries to embrace. Equality will only be found when everyone involved believes they're equal.

