

Girl Powered Essay

When we hear the phrase, Girl Powered, we think of females who are independent and achieve things that are “hard for girls to accomplish”. This is put in quotation marks, because many people think that females are weak and can’t achieve the same things that males can. Girl Powered is an empowerment of girls. This phrase makes us treat females equally and give them equal opportunities. Some may even look up to accomplished females in respect and awe. There are many females who changed the world. They didn’t get bothered by any criticism they got. Examples of women who made a huge impact on world history are Marie Curie, Rosa Parks, Rosalind Franklin, Amelia Earhart, Queen Victoria, Mother Teresa, Malala Yousafzai, Cleopatra, Jhansi Lakshmi Bai, Helen Keller, Jane Goodall and many more wonderful, amazing and inspiring women.

We have two boys and two girls on our team. One girl in our team is our leader and has been doing VEX Robotics for two years. She won the Middle School Excellence Award in 2017 and 2018. That qualified her teams both years for the VEX Worlds Championships. Her team even won the Service Award in the Opportunity Division last year. This person showed that females can be powered. The other girl in our team is a national champion twice and state chess champion twice. She won against many males at chess tournaments and showed the girl power in the men dominated game. She brought the same zeal to the robotics team. We have a diversity of cultures/heritage in our group.

The people in our group are or have family members from India, China, Scotland, Wales, and Netherlands. With a diversity of people in our team, we each bring creative and interesting ideas to the table. There is no such thing as a bad idea but suggestions can be improved. We as a team distributed the roles of builder, coder, journalist, equipment manager, and driver. These were our main roles and where we were each strongest. But, everyone contributed in every field. For example, the main journalist is constantly updating the notebook, but everyone helps out and make entrees too. We first started out by just assigning each member a job. After we found out what each person was good at, we each got different roles. For example, one teammate was given the role of equipment manager at the beginning. He has shown potential in the field of building, so he has been building a lot more and helping out.

“My STEM role model is my coach from China that taught me so much. I learned so much about building, driving, coding, and much more. Without him, I wouldn’t be who I am right now. I met him at the World Championships in 2017. I was fascinated by their robot and wished to learn more. He saw potential in me and agreed to work with me. So over summer break, I went to China and worked with them for 2 weeks. We worked 12

hours a day, everyday. I have grown so much as a person and as an engineer, and it's all thanks to him," says our leader.

We learned how to manage time, work with other people, improve our teaching skills and problem solving skills. We make sure everything is running smoothly in our team according to our schedule. We are learning real-world skills and would like to encourage other girls to compete in this wonderful robotics world.

These are encouraging quotes from famous women:

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement." - Helen Keller

"I was smart enough to go through any door that opened." - Joan Rivers

"Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputations can never effect a reform." - Susan B. Anthony

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful." - Malala Yousafzai

"I hope the fathers and mothers of little girls will look at them and say 'yes, women can.'" - Dilma Rousseff

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - Jane Goodall

"A strong woman is a woman determined to do something others are determined not be done." - Marge Piercy

What does the 35216B robotics team say? We say...

"Be yourself and you can do wonders. Girls have the power to change the world!"