

5225A's  
Journey in  
Girl Powered



Anjalee

Aditi

Alice

The PiLons has always been a racially diverse team, but on the girl-to-guy ratio... it comes short some years. When we, the senior girls currently on the team, (on the left!) first joined as the newbie 'nuggets', we didn't have a glimpse of what Girl Powered was or could be. Our journey these past three years has been pretty eventful, especially with the teams' 2018 Worlds win :) Coincidentally, all the girls that have joined in the past few years have all had a name that starts with an 'A'...

## Introduction – The Triple A Nuggets?

# Starstruck

E-BOTS



E-Bots Robotics, the company we're hosted through, holds robotics classes for kids. That's how each of us were introduced to VEX. Sadly, parents are much more likely to sign their sons up for classes than their daughters, which is why we tend to have less guys than girls on our team. That doesn't mean we were seen as any less than the others! Alice and Aditi helped with build, Alice took a bit of an interest in programming, Anjalee was pretty stuck on programming, and they all scouted lots first year!



# Alumni – Kalli and Ella!

Kalli was our team captain and head builder our first year. She was a huge inspiration for those of us who wanted to do the technical stuff on our team! She was a great leader and mentor, and definitely a great role model for us all. Even after VEX, she's doing great at Waterloo Mechatronics!

Ella, though we never actually met her, was an inspiration on her own. We heard stories about her, how great of a builder she was, an amazing strategist, absolutely everything and anything.. Which is exactly what you'd expect from a previous team captain! Both girls pushed us nuggets to do so much in coming years.



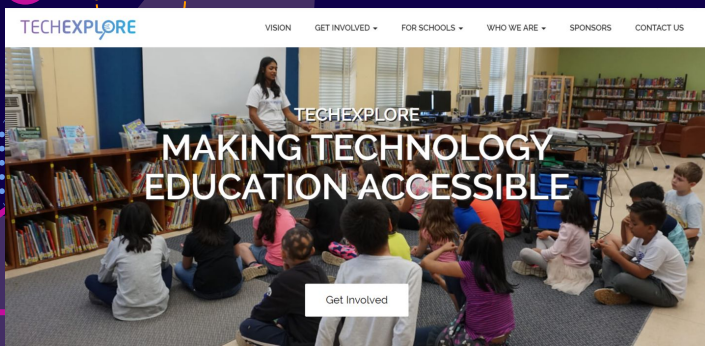
# In The Zone



This was the year we won worlds! For Anjalee and I, it was a huge motivator to do even more next year. Aditi had to leave to focus on school :(, but we wish her luck!

Last year, we really noticed how and why girls didn't get added on to our team much. Through E-Bots, we hosted a Girl Powered event to try to get parents more interested in putting their girls through our programs. Alice and Anjalee had a workshop for any girls to come in, and spoke to parents about the importance of their girls being in STEM. I hope we saw some future PiLons in there that day!





# End Of Zone?

Hi, it's Anjalee! I love making stuff, and always have. Having got involved with robotics when I was 9 years old, and I know how much of an impact robotics can have on your character. It helped me discover my love of programming, and become the person I am today. When I noticed that this opportunity was not available to most kids, I founded [TechExplore](#) in tenth grade, a youth-run social enterprise that aims to bring affordable tech-education to kids everywhere. Through it, my team and I have helped create new possibilities for hundreds of kids, and have even been featured in The Star.



After our In the Zone season, the team was invited to share our robotics journey with over 500 bright young girls at an event hosted by Google in Mountainview, California. We showcased our Programming Skills run, and, Anjalee Narenthiren, the coordinator of the event, was asked to sit on a panel and deliver keynote about her journey with STEM! The team is so thankful to have helped create opportunities for so many!



## Google Girl-Powered VEX Robotics Workshop 2018

# Turning Point



This year, we did get some new members!! This is Andrea. She's got a big interest in programming, and she's doing the Virtual Worlds challenge this year to learn!



Hi, Alice here! So, when I first heard about the whole 'Girl Powered' thing.. It honestly made me uncomfortable. At first I assumed that was because I thought it was 'cringey' or something.. But I've recently discovered the real reason.

Through this Girl Powered journey, I found out I'm not actually a girl. I'm a guy, very much a trans guy, and this has helped me realize that.

Now, I'm definitely proudly supporting Girl Powered for my friends here on this team!

(And especially supporting any of our LGBT teammates!)



Most trans people have a flashy before and after, but I just look the same haha.. Guess I always knew on the inside.



# Where we're at now!

## Anjalee

Sticking to Nothing But Coding (ha) definitely paid off for her! She's our head programmer this year, after spending a lot of time learning from our alumni over the summer. She's got a heavy workload with that plus her company!



We definitely have high hopes and expectations for Andrea in coming years! :)

## Alice

Though technically no longer a girl on this team, they're a team captain now, along with being head of the Online Challenges section and trying out being a head scout at competitions!





Thanks for reading through  
:)

By: Anjalee, Alice, and others on  
team 5225A