
Girl  Powered



"Together, we can make a change"

STEM from a different perspective

Meet the Team: The girls of team 4073A

My name is Aleena Vela and I am currently in my first year of VEX Robotics as the Inventor for team 4073A. I decided to join VEX Robotics because I saw it as a great opportunity to learn more about robotics and the importance of the engineering field. Being a girl on a robotics team has showed me that no matter who you are, you can still achieve and do great things. I have gained a lot of experience and knowledge from being a VEX Jet and I hope to gain a lot more.



Hello, my name is Shelby Lollis and I am currently going through my second year of VEX Robotics as a programmer for team 4073A. I chose the VEX Robotics program because of my family; I had seen all of these successful women entering the engineering field. They were all so smart whenever they talked, and were so proud to be engineers. When I was little, I mainly saw men in the Engineering field, and never thought of pursuing that kind of career. VEX, however, has taught me completely different. As one of the two girls on my team, I am proud to be a VEX Jet.



How it all Started:

When the VEX Jets first formed in 2012, there was only a single girl on the team. Her name was Michaela Reese, and she was on team 4073A. Although outnumbered, she never wavered her confidence and knowledge for VEX. Little did that girl know, she would pave the way for many more girls in our robotics program. At the time, her dream was to be the first female astronaut to walk on Mars. After her, the number of girls joining the VEX Jets only continued to grow. Now in Grand Canyon University, she is pursuing her dreams. Her story inspired us as girls, to persevere and no matter what, do what you love. Hearing her story, we have decided to try and get more girls in our VEX robotics program.



What does "Girl Powered" mean to us?

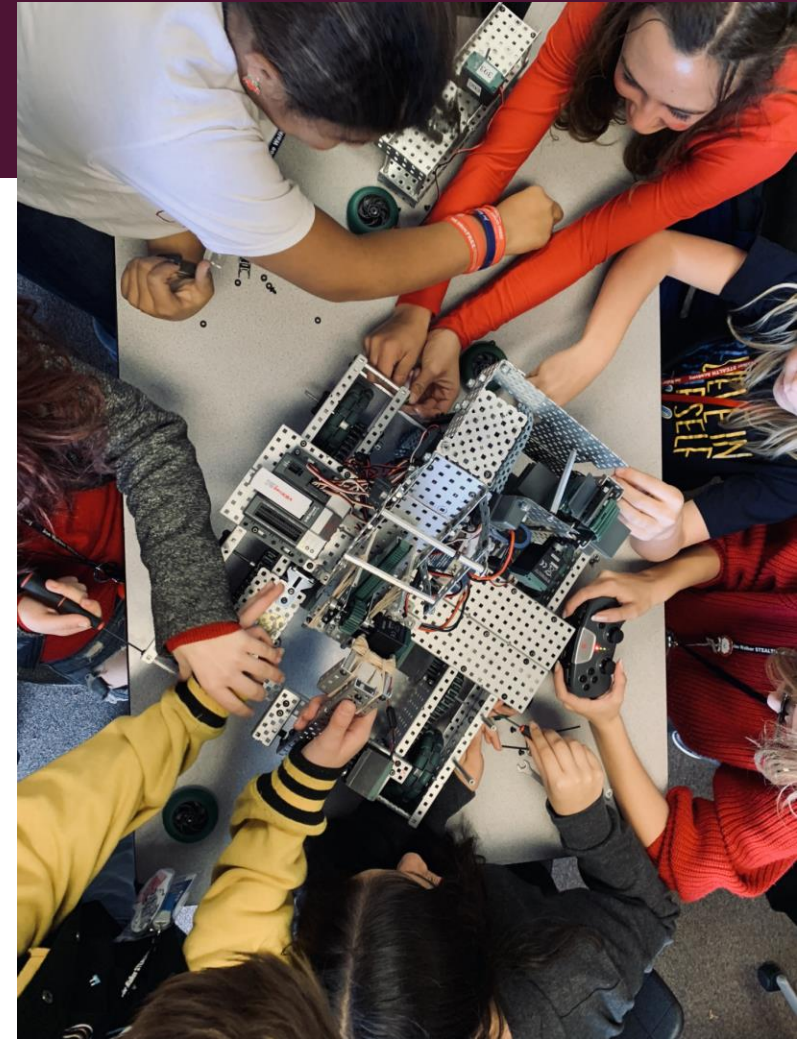
When we hear the phrase "Girl Powered" what comes to mind is millions of girls in VEX, all over the world, working together as one to become more than just a pretty face. The fact that we can connect with other girls, who don't even speak our own language, is absolutely captivating. Copious amount of women, with origins from all over, can empower and inspire each other, simply with words. The two separate words, girl & powered on their own, are simple everyday words. Yet when you put the two together, you get an amazing and supportive community, full of love and determination. Girl Powered makes many proud of who they are, and the difference they can make as women.

This is reflected in our teams' approach to robotics, by showing that we are an inclusive community. This community is exactly what caused us to join VEX Robotics. We felt safe in this environment, we felt welcomed, and most of all, we felt empowered.



HOW DIVERSITY PLAYS A ROLE ON OUR TEAM

■ Diversity plays a big role in our team. We all have a different perspective on many things, and working together we have overcome great obstacles. Working together has not only brought us closer as a team, but also as a family. This includes the diversity of roles on our team. Each person within the team has their own designated job, but also strives to learn from others' jobs as well. We get our ability to succeed from our diversity. In the VEX Jets, we have three teams together as one. Each person in our program brings their own piece of knowledge to the table, regardless of their job. The girls of the VEX Jets are never afraid to show our ideas, which helps us all get on the same page while simultaneously sprouting new ideas.



Our Goal for VEX:

Our program's main goal is to provide an inclusive and empowering environment regardless of gender or race. We want VEX to be a safe and welcoming place for all. Through girl powered we can show that the engineering field is for everyone, no matter what letter of STEM you focus on. There are so many women in the STEM field that help young girls live out their dreams, and it's those women who use their brains for the great or good. They help our country and even our entire world with their knowledge. Not only do they help our world, but help those younger and older than them, to learn and experience new things. Girl Powered is an amazing thing that will continue affecting multiple generations long into the future. This is our time as girls to rise and show our pride and expertise. Together as one we can make STEM Girl Powered.

