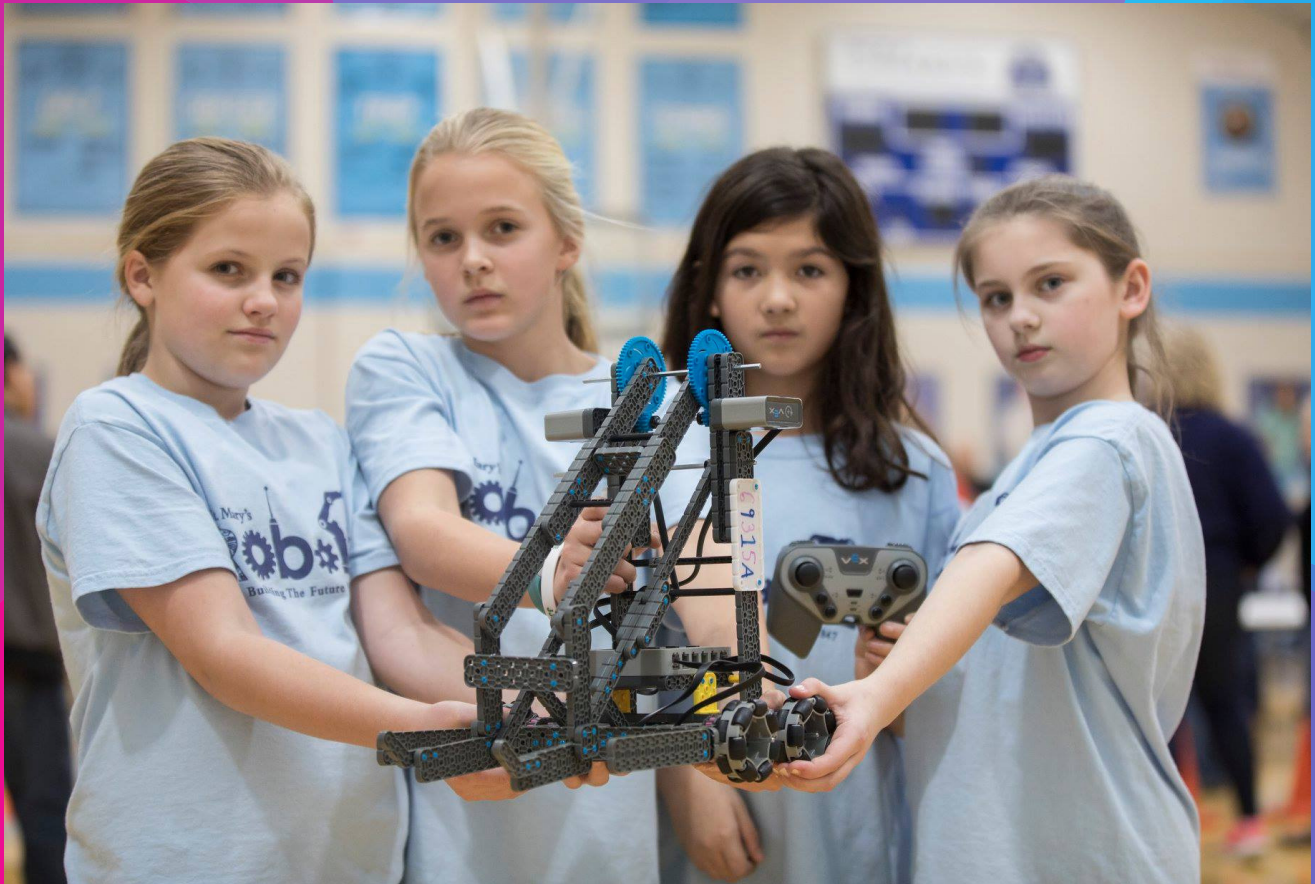


Girl Powered. WITH THE SMS TURKEYS



By: Ella Scarborough, Leighton Visinsky,
Charolette Hernandez, Megan Gulla

TEAM
69315A

When we think of the phrase "Girl Powered" we think of Rosie the Riveter, Hermione Granger, Marie Curie, and Annie Oakley. Rosie the Riveter is a source of motivation for girls and women today. Rosie's bright poster featuring her saying "We can do it!" is from a time when very few women had careers.



Another one of our female role models is Hermione Granger. Although she is fictional, she encourages many people today. She is from the Harry Potter series written by J.K. Rowling. "Hermione Granger is smart and determined, so we look up to her," Charlotte says. In the books, Hermione is often considered to be the brightest witch of the century. Hermione is very good at solving problems, and we have a lot to learn from her. Marie Curie is a famous chemist. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, and the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences. Marie grew up in a time where Polish women couldn't go to universities. Marie Curie can teach us to work around problems and encourage us to reach for our goals no matter what society says we should do.



Annie Oakley is the last of our role models. In Annie Oakley's time, shooting was considered unfit for women. However, Annie wouldn't stop and kept doing what she liked. She even performed for royalty. We can learn from her that being a girl shouldn't stop you from doing what you love. If we are ever down or discouraged while at practice, we think about these women who have faced challenges but did not let anything hold them back. That is what being "Girl Powered" is all about! Never backing down from a challenge, inspiring others, breaking stereotypes, and always growing to become a better you.





One way our team promotes Girl Power is by always being inclusive. Some of us have done VEX before, some of us have not. I, for one, have never done VEX, but I have never felt so included in such a big group. We are all very different. For example, some of us play sports, some of us act, some of us bake, but all of us come together with our strengths to be on the VEX team. We want to keep encouraging more girls at our school to participate in robotics because we feel like there is something for everyone on the team. "We all make sure everyone has a role because we do not want anyone to left out," said Ella Scarborough, another one of our newbies this year. If we want to meet our goals, we have to work together.

In order to make the most of our time, we have roles we typically stick to. Megan and Charlotte are the builders, and Ella and I work on things like the notebook and miscellaneous activities such as Girl Power. We also all work on our driving skills. In some cases, someone may be struggling, or want to take a break from what they are doing, and we are always open to switching roles. "We switch around so that everyone gets to do, and practice a little bit of everything," says head builder Megan Gulla. I have learned that even though someone else might be better or know more about one specific topic, it shouldn't hold you back from trying it out. I have also learned that it's okay to get something wrong. In VEX, we learn a lot through our failures.



Through getting ready for our first tournament, we have learned that we have to work together if we want to get things done. For example, when we build, one person will get the pieces, and another person will build. It is also necessary that each of us writes in our notebook so that everyone's ideas are included. If we don't write down important details, we could end up making the same mistakes and we won't be able to keep track of our progress of our robot. Working together is the whole point of a team. It is also important to have each other's back if something doesn't go as planned. During our first tournament, we had some issues, but ended up getting 5th in qualifiers out of 32 teams. We were able to problem solve and bounce back after falling behind. We even won an award! "I do not know what I would do without my teammates, they are always helpful and there to catch me when I fall," says one of our newbies, Leighton Visinsky.



Winning awards is always fun, but we know the main reason we are doing VEX is to learn a new way of thinking in a fun way. Whenever we have a problem, we all try to fix it since we each look at problems in a different way. Megan Gulla says, "I think about how it broke, all things we could do to fix it, and then put my plan into action. If it doesn't work, I will think of another idea and try it." It is important that we don't keep sticking to the same way of thinking. If we come across a problem that we can't solve, we wait a day or two and then try again. Once, we had problems building the drivetrain, but when we returned to the problem that afternoon, we were able to implement a better plan. Without our different and unique ways of thinking, our robot would not be as successful.



The best thing about being on a VEX team and promoting "Girl Power" is growing in our abilities and learning to solve problems together. All of the challenges we face, the problems we have, our strengths and weaknesses make us a better team. We know we still have a lot to learn and we are excited to tackle the challenges that go along with it. Through participating in VEX Robotics, we are growing more confident in our problem solving skills and aren't afraid to take on challenges or defy stereotypes. As a team, we learn through our failures and celebrate our successes. We can't wait to see where this VEX season will take us. Our motto for this year is - Let's listen to Rosie. "We can do it!"

"We Can Do It!"



Girl Powered with the SMS Turkeys

TEAM NUMBER: 69315A

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Megan Gulla, Leighton Visinsky, and
Ella Scarborough**

**Credits: We used CANVA for the
background and graphics**