



The Next Generation



STEM... Growing up, society has always taught us that careers and jobs in the different branches of science, technology, engineering, and math; are meant to be for men to work in, for they are “not meant for woman”. Though if you come to think of it, why can’t women be part of jobs like this? Well, today’s society has been greatly influenced by the thoughts of the past societies; and even in the smallest and slightest remarks and sayings that we use now a days, we might find small aggressions towards women. Even if we think that we have reached equality in genres we haven’t achieved it yet. Even so we still have to be grateful, for we do have more inclusive environment than before, the which is being promoted in various and different ways. A clear example of this is the flourishing number of girls that are getting involved in robotics, it’s not only astonishing, it is also something that we should be proud of; for we are showing to the world that we are not just a pretty face, we are way much more.



When being in robotics your most likely to find boys working in these competitions, or at least that's what the great majority of people think. And even now, when we, and I bet that most girls go through this as well, say that we are in a robotics team, we get strange looks from people, looks that are mostly filled with the disbelief. And its always satisfactory to prove wrong people when they say that robotics are only for boys; because something like robotics isn't only for a specific genre; its for all and everyone, and that is one of the things that Girl Powered means to us.



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People often believe, that to get girls to join things like a robotics team is nearly impossible; but actually, it isn't that hard when one knows how to get people's attention when presenting it and showing them all the different aspects of robotics. Throughout the year, aside from doing all the work involved in robotics, we also do various presentations, in which we explain what robotics is to students all the way from elementary school to high school. In these presentations, we explain every aspect of robotics, even how hard and stressful it might sometimes be, but also, we tell how satisfied it makes you feel when you do everything and see good results from your work.

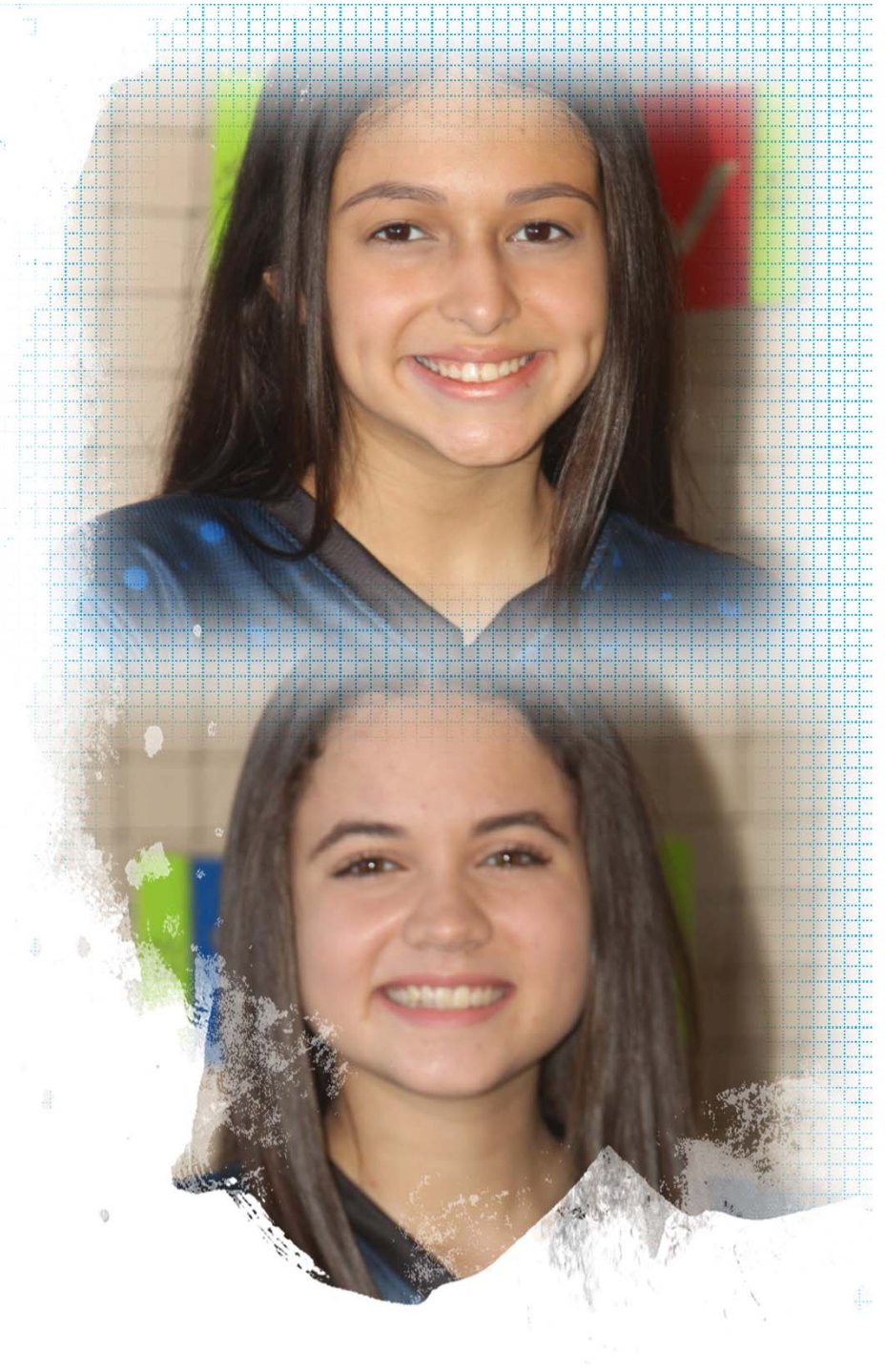
People As well, we tend to do presentations in which we show how robotics work, and give them an example of how the matches are, just to give them a bit of an idea of what they might be doing, when he or she gets into the robotics world. Once we recruit new members, obviously, after they take the lessons necessary to know the basics of robotics, we make them pass through all the parts of designing, building, programing, and driving the robot, creating strategies for matches, and working to try to obtain the different awards that way we can let the new comer choose what he or she likes the most, and we can see in which area is the person more outstanding.





Even so, as mentioned before, even when we are assigned a specific task, we all work in any other work that has to do with the robot when needed. Often, we might think why do we have to learn to do everything, when we only like doing a specific task of the robot; well it actually comes in handy a lot, specially when the member that usually does that task is sick or has a situation, and can't be present whether in a reunion or a competition. When this occurs, it makes see and know how important is each member, and the work they do; this makes learn to appreciate, and value even more our team mates.

Talking about team mates, and how each and every one of them is important, it is also very important to maintain a good and healthy relationship and communication with your team. This is of great help to you and your team even when you are building a robot. Typically, when we are in any group, we might face some conflicts, that's quite normal since we are all different and have different ways of how to see and analyze things; but if we have a good relationship, and communication it is easier, when we have to discuss and decide the things we are going to do with the robot. Knowing that we all are different, and that we all have different perspectives on things, can be great if known how to manage it correctly, or terrible if one doesn't know how to deal with it; in our group the diversity of perspectives isn't actually a big problem, in the other hand it has helped us quite a lot.





Our team has been able to form a bond and it makes the chemistry in the group even better, this has helped a lot, because it helps us understand each other better; and in the moments of designing, building, programming, strategizing, and being in a match, it helps us make more efficient decisions, with which we can all be happy. In the other hand, having different perspectives, has helped us a lot specially when designing the robot, for it helps to see the many different ways we can build a robot to complete a certain task. To be able to achieve this, like in any other team, group, or relationship, there must be good communication amongst the team members, whether it's the girls or it's the boys; for communication combined with knowledge is the key to success.

In life, no matter what we are doing, or going to do, we always want to be successful; for this reason, we always aspire to be like someone else, we always look up to someone, and follow their steps. That is no different when one forms part of the STEM industry, specially when being a girl in STEM; sometimes it might be a bit difficult for us to be treated equally, and/or accepted, in this work spaces, that's why it's good having a role model in what we do. In our case our role models are both the African-American, and white women who worked for NASA as their human "computers, most commonly known as "Hidden Figures". They weren't just women working in NASA, they were the ones who made NASA's space travels and projects possible, they were the ones who calculated every single equation that made safe the travel to outer space. Those women, did not only worked six days a week, doing jobs that even men couldn't do; they were also expected to do all the things that society asked of them as a woman and a "good wife and mother". These women do inspire us to have a more inclusive team/program, for they teach us that no matter how adverse the situation might be, we shouldn't let anyone or anything stop us.





At the end of it all, it all comes down to equal treatment, and showing respect to everyone, not only your team mates, but to everyone who works with you and surrounds you. For it doesn't matter what sex, race, ethnicity, and/or religious believes a person is or has, we are all equal, we have the same rights, and we are all capable of doing the same tasks and jobs. "There are so many women that are capable, smart, sharp and good at what they do. What they are lacking is the opportunity to sit across the table from the other minds that are coming up with the innovative solutions..." -Dr. Christyl Johnson, NASA's Deputy Director for Technology and Research Investments

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