

4073B's Girl Powered Online Challenge

When we hear the phrase Girl Powered, women in STEM comes to mind. In the beginning, women weren't able to obtain the positions they have today. The image from society is that women aren't cut to work in the STEM field. "Traditional" women were supposed to stay home and do all the household chores. Since society has evolved, women were figuring out that they could do the same things men do. Women chose to join the STEM path rather than following society's image. Currently, the percentage of women in the U.S. choosing a STEM career path and getting a Ph.D. is 42%. Girls in STEM should be encouraged to pursue their dreams everywhere, including all schools and districts. Our team has ten members, seven of which are girls and three of them are boys. Not only is team 4073B 70% girls, but the entire VEX Jets class as a whole is around 50% girls and 50% boys.

Our VEX Jets team attracts a diverse group of students through our inclusiveness and welcoming environment. All of our students come from numerous backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and cultures. We believe that because of our diverse group of students, our various mindsets and different ways of thinking help our team as a whole. While we all have our separate beliefs and ideas, we always treat each other as equals. No one is viewed as more important than another. We are all equal no matter what position, race, religion, or ethnicity. We include everyone's idea and don't leave anyone behind or excluded. In fact, each of our unique perspectives helps us to think as a team and build as a team. Our lack of prejudice not only prevents conflicts but also promotes a positive environment and improves the general welfare of our team. This school year, we have transitioned from being three separate teams to one big

team. Therefore, any builder can help assist on any of the other team's robot, and everyone can work together without worrying about the division of teams. We replaced our team captains with our Project Manager, Kailey. She keeps track of all the teams, making sure they're up to date and meeting deadlines. Alongside with her, we have three Co-Project Managers, who each have the role of supervising a team and making sure deadlines and goals are met, rather than being a captain. No one is lower than another, because we are all one big VEX family.

All of Team B's members have taken in each and every role to help advance our VEX Jets team. Each team has roles and tasks that every individual must take on. Throughout years of experience, we have noticed that most people do not end up with the job they were originally interested in. Many of my fellow teammates' primary and secondary jobs had switched due to skill and lack of interest in the job they tried prior. However, many of our team members frequently switch between jobs to help aid the VEX team in every way possible. Most of our team members aren't primary builders, but everyone has helped with building the robot in one point in time. Everyone has their own role in Team B and each and every one of us has made unique contributions to the team. For example, Kamilah is the engineering notebook person, however everyone contributes to the notebook by putting in their input. Braxton and Kailey are our pitboss and Project Manager, so they are technically part of every "team" as well. Isaac and Aleysa are programmers, but often help build. Mandy, Natalie, and Joeseeph are the team's main builders, but assist in other jobs need be. Lilly is the 3-D printer for the three teams and also helps in building the robot. Thora is the inventor person, and creates a scale model of the robot using Inventor Professional 2016. At one point of being a VEX Jet, we have all helped each role.

This has taught everyone how every role works and how to be successful in each and every role, as well as how each role contributes to the team as a whole.

Our STEM role model is Marie Curie because she was an amazing girl that was one of the most famous scientists of the past. She inspires us and shows that not only guys can do STEM. Marie Curie was a very smart woman and encouraged many people to pursue STEM like her. She encourages us to be more inclusive in VEX because she did not just achieve her goals on her own. She had many people that supported and helped her with going into STEM and being in STEM. This demonstrates to us that working as a team will help us achieve goals and having our own ideas will also help with the process. Combining each other's ideas help improve the team because included in everyone's idea make it into a better, solid, and great idea. In the end, Marie Curie is our role model and does inspire us to be better in VEX.