

Hello, my name is Katie Roark. I am on team 121A. I am a 5th grader at Oak Grove Upper Elementary School in Hattiesburg, MS. I started robotics in the second grade as part of the EXCEL gifted class.



1. When you hear the phrase, Girl Powered, what comes to mind? How is it reflected in your team's approach to robotics?

I think about women and girls doing remarkable things in science. This makes me want to do great in science and robotics. On our team, we do everything together. We don't have girl jobs and boy jobs. 2. Share how your team has taken initiative to create a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students.



My team has visited other students and encouraged them to do robotics. We have helped other teams build their robots and solve problems. We made sure they understood what they were doing. This year we had the opportunity to show teachers from across the state how we build and program robots at a teacher conference. We wrote a program and ran it on our robot. 3. Share how each team member has tried various roles on the team (everything from designing, to building, programming, strategy, awards, etc.). Explain what you learned through this experience.







On my team, there are two people and we do everything together. We both design and build the robot. We also both program. We brainstorm our strategies and decide whose idea is better. We tried a lot of different plans. We worked out a plan where I go first to get the hubs and place them in the rectangle. Then, Jacob stacks more hubs on top and hangs. We learned that good teamwork is important. We do our best when we work together. 4. How do you believe diversity of perspective changes your robot design, your team chemistry, and even your ability to succeed?







I believe that the diversity of perspective helps our team by giving us new ideas that help us make our robot the best we can make it. Jacob and I have both come up with ideas on how to make the robot better. We listen to each other and try them out. One of the things that has also helped us is meeting with the other 121 teams. We spend part of our time brainstorming ways to make each of our robots better. That helps us to be a better team. 5. Who is your STEM role model and why? Does this person inspire you to have a more inclusive team / program? How?



Dr. Elin Gursky Senior Assoc. Dean Member of UN Secretary Generals High-Level Panel on the global Response to Health Crisis



## Dr. Elin Gursky





My role model is Dr. Elin Gursky. I met her when we were doing our STEM project. She is an epidemiologist who works with the United Nations, World Health Organization, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She led the United Nation's international response to the Ebola Outbreak. I interviewed her again as my Girl Power hero. She said she has spent a lot of time mentoring young women in STEM programs, college, and graduate school because she faced a lot of obstacles being a girl in science. She told me, "If you are interested in science, pursue it with your heart and mind. Do not give up." Seeing Dr. Gursky be a top scientist lets me know that women can do anything, including robotics! Bonus Question: What are some additional memorable experiences you've had through participating in VEX IQ Robotics?



Participating in the Girl Power Events

## Traveling to new places (Omaha, NE)

Meeting people from around the world

## Making Friends!



## Credits

Title: Katie's VEX IQ Girl Power Adventure

Participant: Katie Roark

Team: **121A** 

Home town: Purvis (Oak Grove), Mississippi

Thank you for looking at my presentation!