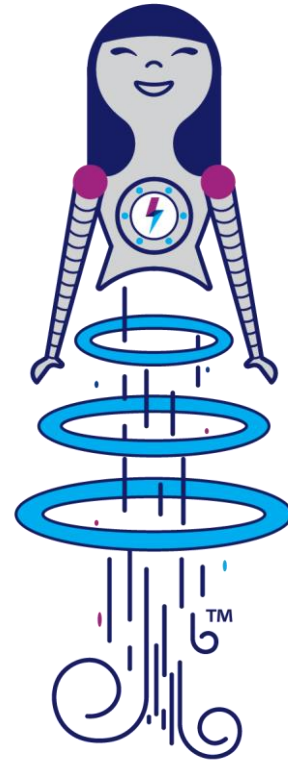


VRC Girl Powered



11791C
NOVA

Who is Adriana Ibarra?



My name is Adriana Lujan Ibarra Alvarez. I'm 14 years old and live in the city of Aregua, Paraguay. I'm a member of the team 11791C "NOVA". I've been studying robotics since I was 10 years old.

My Team 11791C

There are six members in my team: 5 boys and myself.

Matías is the Captain and driver, Tobias and Junior are the builders, Felipe is the 3D Designer, Sever is the Programmer, and I'm in charge of the Engineering ledger. We have a good relationship among ourselves. We spend a lot of time together and we get along together based on respect. We all give our opinions and ways to solve our problems in STEM.

Our Coach

Melissa Adriana Gonzalez Ortiz is our team coach and she is 23 years old. She develops software, studying Computer Science at the National Asuncion University, and for the past two years, the VEX Robotics Teacher for IQ and VRC at our school. She motivates us to do our best, handles our team very well, and helps us solve our difficulties during class and at the competitions.



My Journey to Becoming a Power Girl



When I hear the word GIRL Power, the first thing that comes to mind are all the women that are able to do exactly the same jobs as it was thought that only men could do. Presently there are more women who do these jobs.

My Early days in Robotics



Since I was little my great passion has always been to discover and try new things out. That's why in 2014 the school gave the opportunity to participate in robotics class where I learned to design, build and program robot prototypes for different challenges. At that time we were 6 girls and 10 boys between the ages of 10 to 14 years old. Every day I arrived at practice I was excited to find out what we were going to learn that day. As time went on my knowledge in Robotics and STEAM grew even more and became a part of my life. That is when I realized my true passion and for sure my future. To me it was fun and educational that would help me solve any difficulty that came my way. Also be able to work with a team of peers, be creative, optimistic, and above everything else have fun doing it. Robotics and STEM to me are not just a hobby; they are my future and new doors that I would like to cross.

My participation in the National Robotics League

Towards half of 2016 we were presented with a new challenge, to participate in the National Robotics League. Every month we were supposed to prepare ourselves to compete at different Schools and Universities around the capital city of Asuncion. At the beginning we had to learn the rules, all the materials that we needed and the challenges that VEX IQ presented. Every month it was very exciting to prepare everything and compete. At the beginning we didn't do very well, we had many difficulties because with programming and building, so we hired specialist to teach how to do it, and from there we did much better. There were times that we finished in 4th or 6th place. By that point our original team had fallen apart. Only 5 boys and I were left standing. During the following months we became stronger and better as a team.

2017 – 2018 World Championship



Last year we classified to the VEX World Championship, thanks to two online challenges that we presented and were finalists. Then we won the Promote Award Challenge. It was not an easy task. We had to work on it during our summer vacation. It was hard to coordinate our schedules, but finally with a lot of hard work, we were able to finish it and send it in before the due date. Not only did we win that challenge, but we also won the prize for “Excellence” in the National Tournament. On April 25th we traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to the VEX World Championship. Not only the competition was amazing, but all the people and their different cultures, we made new friends from different parts of the world, and their languages. We were able to appreciate all the designs, and prototypes from the different teams. At the end of three days, we returned

to Paraguay exhausted with our trophy and medals of the Promote Award Online Challenge. This victory was very important for us and our community. We were welcomed by them with excitement, happiness and cheer. We will never forget this moment.



This Season

We came back in August after a few months of rest, full of energy to start in our new category VRC. We informed ourselves on this year Turning Point Challenge.

We have a new team mate this year and his name is Matias. He is 16 years old and has a lot of potential. He quickly became our team captain.



Robotics is not only for learning, but also to make new friends



In these competitions we are not only there to compete, but also to make friends. My new friends are from the Arambe School in Luque, one town over from mine. Not only are they my fellow robotics competitors, but we became good friends. We have the same spirit and passion for robotics. These girls are witty and creative. We spend time in and out of the meets. We are always there to support one another.

How I met these girls



I met these wonderful girls in 2018 during the Freshtesh preparations when I was in VEX IQ, and they were in VEX VRC. Since both of our teams classified for worlds, we got to see a lot of each other at interviews. While we were at worlds, we became good friends and continued back home through social media. This season we share the same category, in which sometimes we are rivals and other times alliances. Even though we are rivals, we are closer than ever. During meets, we help each other out. Sometimes we

lend pieces or solutions for each other's teams, and always support one another to keep working harder.

These are not the only two girls I've met during these competitions. I've made many other friends and alliances. It makes me happy to see more women at these competitions, and even happier that we have our backs.

Motivational Speech

This year during a GIRL Power speech. One of my friends told her experiences and stories about the world championship. She also told the story about a teacher, who not only is a wife, mother, but she continued creating and working hard at what she loves. This inspired girls, of all ages and teachers to continue working hard to reach our dreams. It's never late to try, even though you have to sacrifice a lot to get there. It's well worth it.



My Role Model



Cristina Urdiales is a Telecommunications Engineer; she has a doctorate in electronic and artificial technology. Since she was a young girl, she felt that was her lifelong passion. She studied and graduated with honors at the UPC and UMA Universities. She also received a certificate for the best thesis in Artificial Intelligence. She was a finalist in robotics based work in 2010. Her investigation core is robotics, artificial intelligence and the use of sensors and autonomous programming.

She is my STEAM role model, because she is not only a women, but she is able to work in what she loves, she inspires people with her work since she was young, and because of her hard work she has received honors and recognition among her peers.

Even though she is a mother and wife, she hasn't stopped creating, innovating and studying robotics. She has shown us that women can also shine in the world of technology.