

Introduction to 7035E

7035E is a Miraleste Intermediate School team run with Girl Power. Our Project Manager, Leia Spagnola, and Electrical Engineer, Keziah Speed, are both integral parts of the team. Our team is diverse and committed to equality in every aspect of the design process.

What Girl Power Means to Us

Girl Power is a phrase that represents equality and utilizing all talents on the team, regardless of gender. It means not discounting someone based on a factor they can't change about themselves. Empowering people who have historically been underrepresented, including women of all races and religions, is imperative for them and a free and fair society. For far too long, certain people have been overlooked and discriminated against because of any number of arbitrary characteristics, not least in STEM fields. Now we work to undo past mistakes, and create a world better than ever before.

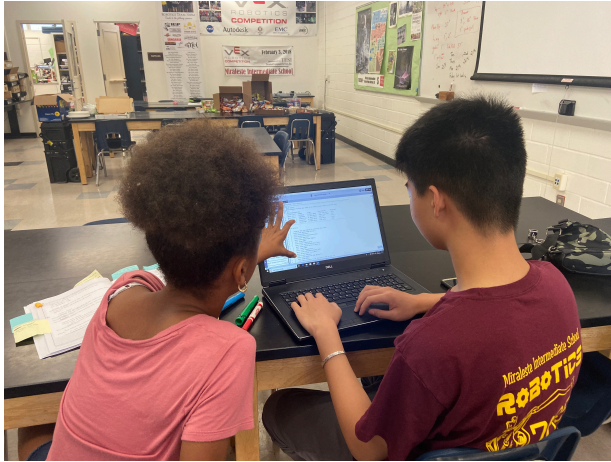
Our Team

Our team works to make sure everyone is participating and using their skills to their fullest potential. Our members work on what they're best at, but 7035E also values VEX robotics as a learning experience. For example, before our first competition, we tested every person on our team with competition timers for driving skills, while making sure to practice so everyone can improve. Our team members additionally support each other to make our robot the

best it can be. Mechanical, electrical, and software engineers collaborate closely, increasing the quality and quantity of our work. After our first few competitions, we were able to identify build issues that were affecting our robot's game-essential abilities. Everyone on our team was given a part of the robot to improve build quality and functionality. We ended up helping each other work through problems and producing an even more effective robot.



We make sure everyone feels included and everyone is contributing to the team, including girls. 7035E relies on the two girls on our team, Leia Spagnola and Keziah Speed, to lead and organize the team and handle the robot's wiring in their respective roles. With both teamwork and strong leadership, our team is able to succeed. We recognize that there can be bias against girls and women in STEM, and we try to mitigate that as best we can. On 7035E, all that matters is your ability to help the team.

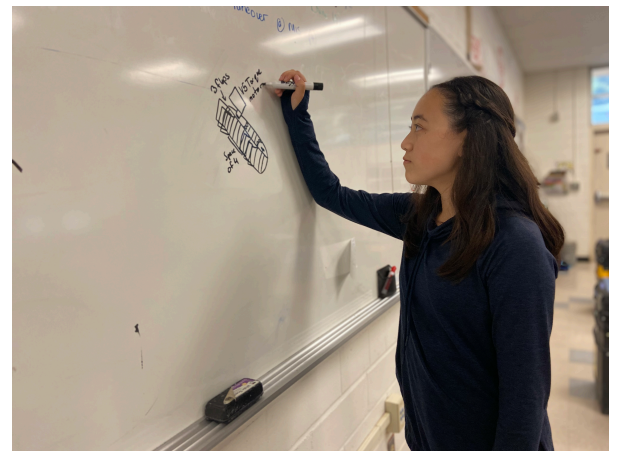


Diversity in STEM

Diversity is an important value in any field, especially when it is realized through equality and greater utilization of skills. STEM fields in particular have a reputation for bias and discrimination against women and people of color. This is detrimental to positive work environments and success in

the field. Arbitrarily holding back over half of the population underuses available skill sets, decreasing the value of the industry as a whole. We should focus on ability and willingness to do the job well, not gender, race, or any other unimportant factor.

Diversity in STEM also comes with another benefit: widened perspective on issues facing the world today. The design process begins with identifying the problem, and people from more diverse backgrounds can bring real problems to the table that haven't been noticed by people from others.



Girl Powered Role Models

Role models have an amazing effect on getting girls interested in STEM. They show that STEM can be for people like them, and isn't just for the stereotypic nerd. On 7035E, one of our STEM role models is Sally Ride. She was the first female American astronaut, the youngest astronaut to date, and the only person to serve on both committees that investigated the Challenger and Columbia tragedies. Ride was an accomplished astrophysicist as well.

People like Sally Ride faced adversity in their quests to pursue STEM careers and do what they loved, simply because no one who looked like them had ever worked in

STEM before. This kind of discrimination is detrimental to the success of STEM fields and society as a whole. Our job now is to make sure we never make those mistakes again, and create a better future for every single person, no matter what they look like or choose to do with their lives.



Credits

Contributor Names: Leia Spagnola and Keziah Speed

Team Number: 7035E

Title: What Girl Power Means to 7035E