



## **Girl Powered Online VEX IQ Challenge**

TWO MINDS,  
INDEPENDENT,  
WORKING TOGETHER,  
ROCKING GIRL POWER!

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**BE HEARD, BE STRONG, BE PROUD!**



# Girl Power Online VEX IQ Challenge

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**Two girls working in an all girl competition team. Two different minds, working independently, and brilliant ideas!**

## **Our Team Members:**



**Hello! My name is Leezamarie Avila and I am currently 14 years old. I started learning about robotics when I was in 7th Grade, and I am now in 8th Grade. I have not, yet, taken part in a robotics competition, but I do hope I qualify for one this year. Girls should not be defined for who or what gender they are. "Girls" are humans, just like any other person in the world. Like Mark Anthony once said, "And one day she discovered that she was fierce, and strong, and full of fire, and that not even she could hold herself back because her passion burned brighter than her fears."**

**Hello! My name is Emily Castillo and I am currently 14 years old. Like Leezamarie, I started to learn about robotics in 7th grade. I am also in the same grade as her and have not taken part in a robotics competition. I believe that girl power is really just an expression that encourages girls to have power, to be in control, to have confidence, strength, and to be independent.**

**In other words, to be yourself. Girls should be considered as equal as men, and not be defined for their gender.**



## Essay:

What comes to mind when we hear the phrase girl power is that girls are equally as strong and as smart as men. Girls and women have fought for a very long time to get the same rights as men. To this day, girls are still not considered as equally strong, smart, and open-minded as men. Hearing the term “girl power” really means a lot to us. To this day, teachers choose boys to do certain tasks when girls can do the same things boys can. To be honest, there are not a lot of girls teams in a robotics competition. So, having the opportunity to take part in an all-girls competition team is meaningful. Just listening to the expression girl power motivates us girls to take control and assist in jobs that are “meant” for boys, for example carpentry and robotics. Moreover, we feel that the term or phrase “girl power” is just an expression. Being a girl does not make someone for who they are. Being a girl is just a label because before being labeled as a girl, we are human beings, just like everyone else in the world. One reason how being in an all-girls competition team reflects my team’s approach to robotics is that we feel like many people will doubt us or do not believe we will succeed in building a robot. Not only that, but we feel that it is a nice change of scenery watching a “girl” taking the lead when it comes to building and designing a robot.

The way that we took the initiative to create a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students is that Emily and I were mostly able to get along well when building and designing the robot. Emily’s dad was born in Guatemala, but he was raised in El Salvador and her mom was born in Venezuela. Leezamarie’s parents are both from Honduras. Funnily enough, El Salvador, Venezuela, and Honduras are very close. So, having a team that shares almost the same cultural background makes it very easy to bond together.

What Emily took charge of in our team was building and designing the robot. What Leezamarie took charge of was programming and the strategy, an example meaning what was the best way to score points. Emily and Leezamarie both equally shared the driving



portion. What Emily and Leezamarie have learned through this experience is that when it comes to designing and building a robot, all measurements and parts have to be very specific, otherwise the robot will not work.

We believe that diversity of perspective changes our robot design because we come from different backgrounds. We are both Hispanic and even though we come from different backgrounds, we both work together very well. Not only that, but we can come to an agreement very easily if we do not agree on something. We believe that we have the ability to succeed because we work together very well together and we believe we have the power it takes to win.

Our STEM role models are our amazing teachers, Ms. Camus, Ms. Cruz, and Mr. Alvarez, who inspire us everyday to become the best version of ourselves. Ms. Camus is our science teacher, Ms. Cruz is our math teacher, and Mr. Alvarez is our robotics teacher. These teachers help us succeed to our fullest potential everyday.



**This is our Physical Science teacher, Ms. Camus. She teaches Emily and I science in order to prepare us for our future when we go to highschool. She inspires us to learn more in the field of science. Not only that, but she teaches us to take care of our environment since she is the head of the recycling club. She showed us a different point of view on our planet that we did not see. She motivates us to never stop learning and to never once doubt ourselves.**

**This is our Algebra teacher, Ms. Cruz. In class, she always reminds us to remain positive everytime we start doubting ourselves. She inspires us everyday to become smarter and a better version of ourselves. She always gives us advice when we need it; she is a real hero. She makes us laugh with her funny jokes and she always makes us feel safe, like if we were her own. We are grateful to have her as our teacher, but we are more grateful to have her in our lives.**

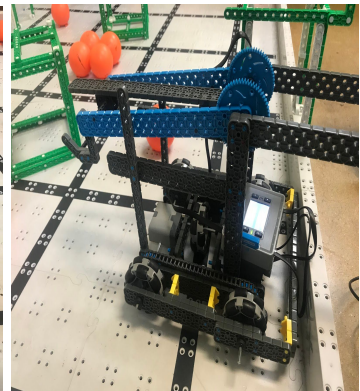
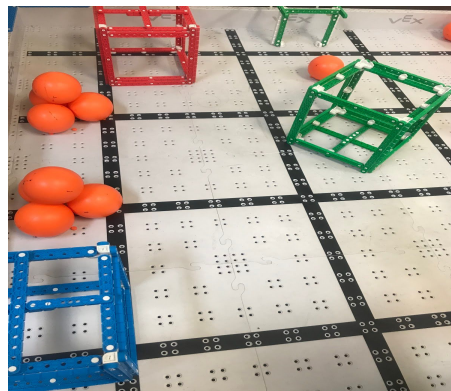
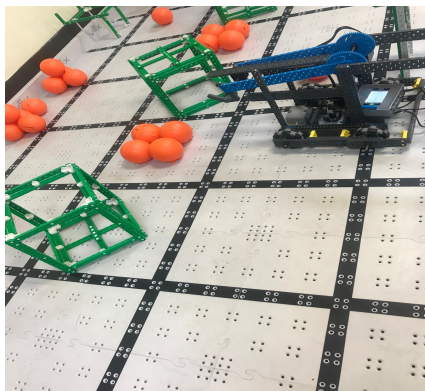
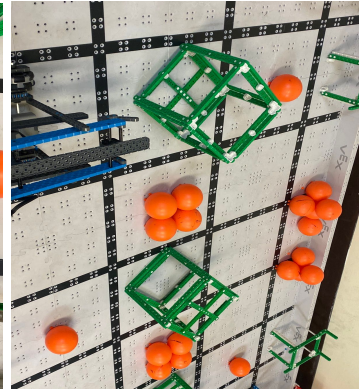
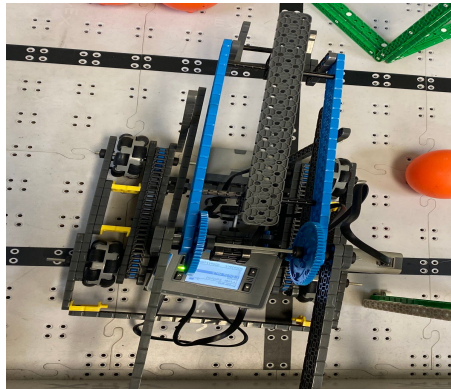






**This is our Robotics teacher, Mr. Alvarez. Everytime Emily or I have a problem or are stressing out about school, we come to him and talk about it. Mr. Alvarez is a very special teacher. He loves his students and he loves helping others before helping himself. He motivates and inspires us both to do better, to be better, and to think outside the box. He is very smart and we are very glad to call him our teacher.**

**Here are some pictures of our robot!**



**These pictures show how Emily and I were testing our robot on the field to make sure it works and none of the pieces fly out, like the connector pins.**



## **Credits:**

**Written By: Leezamarie Avila and Emily Castillo**

**Team Number: 6083A**

**Title: Girl Powered Online VEX IQ Challenge**

