

# Our Girl Powered Essay

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## How Mikayla got into Robotics

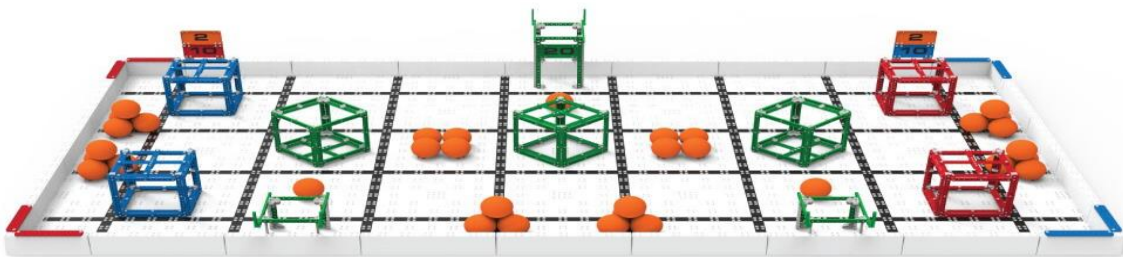
Flashback to summer camp 2019 at Nova. My mom suggested to do Robotics. I was initially not quite interested in it because I thought it was only for boys. But I wanted to try it out anyway because I believe I can do what they can do too.

On the first day, I met a 3rd grader named Sofia. I also discovered that there were other girls in the team, Nina and Elle from 5th grade. I was the only girl from 4th grade. The rest of them were boys. At first, I became a bit nervous when I knew about this but later on, I felt more comfortable. Later, Sofia and I became friends and we were paired to build our first robot, a clawbot. Initially it was hard to build because we were beginners. Soon, after practicing and working together, we were building and driving our robots and having so much fun!

Our message is that we want to be an inspiration to other girls in school to try something new, like robotics. Because you'll never know what you can do until you try it out.

## What we do in Robotics

In robotics, we brainstorm ideas and come up with strategies to solve problems. We write them in our notebook to get points in competitions. We also practice driving and coding. Here is a picture of the field for this year.



In robotics, we build robots. You need to find the right pieces for your robot and need to be careful because one wrong piece can ruin it.

## Driving and Coding

For driving you need a strategy and sometimes you might need to change it. In coding, there is no skills or team challenge for it. In it, you need to code on a computer and must be very experienced because it is a hard thing to do. In coding, there are multiple codes and ways to score the cubes and balls on to the platforms. If you score 40 to 60 points, that's good.

## Our Problems and Solutions

Sometimes when we drive our robots, the axels pop out and the robot wouldn't go forward anymore. When this happens, we modify the robots and make changes to it. I don't really know if we have a solution for that problem, but Sofia and I hope we figure one out soon. Some of our other problems are that our notebook needs improvement.

## How to get to States and Worlds

If you want to be successful in Robotics, you must work on it of course! This work includes practicing for a long time, testing your strategies, keeping an excellent notebook, and modifying the robot when it's not working well enough or having a better idea of changing it. If you want to get to the state competitions, then you need to get certain awards at every competition. This means that you and your teammates have to work together, have good sportsmanship, and practice really hard to get high scores.

## Our Differences

Our differences make us think differently because we are unique in many ways. Say for example, if you are from China, it doesn't mean that you are bad at driving or coding. Maybe you'll be even better! We are unique for a reason, and Vex Robotics is the place to be if you want to show what you can do. Thank you for listening!