

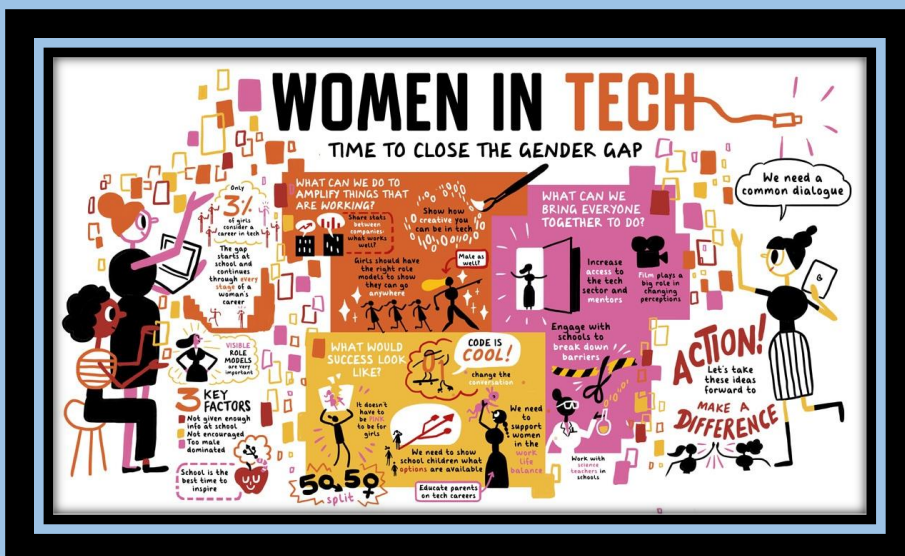
Girl⚡Powered

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Written by Sofia Deek



Team picture at the Robohawks Middle School Tournament after winning the design award

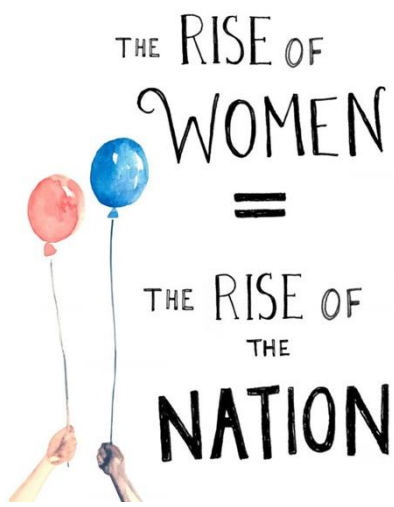
Women
Can
CHANGE
the
World.



“The question isn't who's going to let me; it's who is going to stop me.”

Ayn Rand

WHAT DOES GIRL POWERED MEAN?



Women have been underestimated by men for centuries. Since the dawn of time, men and women have played traditional roles; the men in the dominant role as the provider and women usually were in a submissive role as the caregiver or child bearer. It seemed that men ruled the world for centuries. However, beginning in the 20th century, an increased number of women entered the workforce which affected the gender roles and changed the way families divided their own household work. Once WWII arrived, there was no other alternative but to employ women for “male” roles as most of the men were shipped off to war. Women pursued higher education and began carving their own path.

Today, we are seeing engineering firms hiring more women to work for companies like NASA, Boeing, JPL, etc. Perhaps in our generation, women might have less difficulty being hired for engineering jobs, but the struggle for equality is real. While it seems common knowledge that women and men have the same competencies, the challenge is that women have been underestimated. Fortunately for my generation, women have taken a stand and waves of equality movements have shifted how women are viewed. Together, we can change the way the world thinks by embracing the idea of Girl Powered.



EDUCATE A
girl
AND SHE CAN
CHANGE
the world

GIRL POWERED ON 7035S

Our backstory in the beginning is like most other teams as we were all assigned various roles based on our strengths, dabbling in design, coding or building. Initially, in order for Hana and I to get our teammates respect, we knew it required strength and confidence. Over time, we grew more comfortable with each other and they were able to see solutions from our perspective as well. Having that trust allowed us to excel and earn our first VEX Design Award which only fueled our excitement and confidence after our first tournament in November 2019. Hana and I have been working diligently to continue making an impact on our team. Hana started the year by researching code and how to use C++ and I began the year by reviewing the engineering notebooks from previous Miraleste teams to form ideas. While the boys continue to work on building our robot, we continue working efficiently on improving code and adding detail to the engineering notebook. We also help our team with the construction of our robot when we have completed our jobs for the day to continue being productive.

I speak for my entire team that we all feel tremendous value being part of robotics with shared interest, admiration and creativity. This success is a testament to our team commitment and a reflection on how far we have become in advancing opportunities for young women.. Through hard work and determination, Girl Powered has positively shifted the attitude of our team as we learned to openly communicate and respect each other’s opinions.

Sofia and Hana



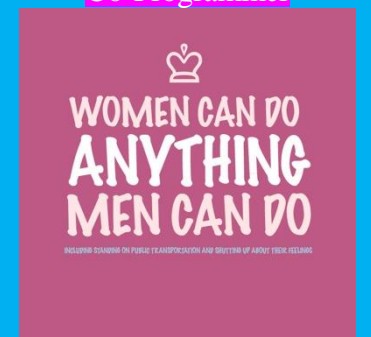
Pictured here is Eight Grader Sofia Deek and Seventh Grader Hana Tehrani. Sofia is helping Hana with her entry in the engineering notebook which explains their first attempt at developing an autonomous program.

Sofia Deek Roles:

Co-Mechanical, Engineering Notebook

Hana Tehrani Role:

Co-Programmer



ENGINEERING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Being on our middle school robotics team has been a full-time commitment. It has given me tremendous insight on the value of women equality and empowerment. The initial reason why I joined the robotics team is because I enjoyed taking the classes during school and over the summer. Learning how to construct, assemble and maneuver objects was exhilarating for me. Although I place a lot of value being part of the VEX program, it has caused a little bit of a divide with my friendships outside the robotics team. For a year and a half now, my friends have wondered how, as a girl, I can enjoy all my lunch time and after school in the robotics room. To some friends, the idea of a girl participating in robotics is very unusual and often are puzzled with my interest and involvement. Being on the team has given me a sense of belonging that no other “group” has given me in middle school. Perhaps our peers do fall into traditional stereotypes that girls are viewed less interested in science and math and more interested in makeup, or art and dance. However, with time, I’m hopeful our peers will stop the stereotypes and finally accept that women can be beautiful and engineers as well.

OUR FUTURE AS WOMEN

We believe everyone deserves a chance and hope all young women are given the tools to flourish and become confident. It's exciting for us to know "Girl Powered" is paving the way for young adults with a variety of opportunities in science and engineering. As a result of these opportunities, there is unbelievable support for women engineers which I know will help today's young women become tomorrow's leaders in engineering. Women will no longer be viewed or expected to be in traditional roles, but rather become recognized as successful engineers or astronauts. Now is the time young women can choose their own path without being pressured from society or their families to be something else. Being on the Miraleste Robotics Team has inspired me to pursue my own dreams regardless of stereotypes or gender. It has encouraged me to take more of an interest in engineering and embark on the journey to become an astronaut or work for NASA. My hope is that more girls will view engineering as an exciting opportunity they can pursue and absolutely achieve. No longer will women be undervalued and underestimated...we are here to change the world!

*A woman with a voice
is by definition a strong
woman.*

*But the search to find
that voice can be
remarkably difficult.*

- Melinda Gates

*"There is no
limit to what
we, as women,
can accomplish,
whether that's
in politics or
other fields."*

Michelle Obama

Powerful Women



Not all women, however, have lived behind the shadows of successful men. There were others that broke new ground and shattered expectations. One of those many extraordinary women engineers is my personal hero, Sally Kristen Ride. Ride was the first American woman astronaut, and without a doubt, revolutionized the movement for women engineers. She was brilliant and studied physics at Stanford. NASA was seeking applicants for their space program and in 1978 she applied and was chosen to join NASA. This was exciting because there were not many women in the space program, and she was one of the few chosen out of 8,000 applicants. On June 18th of 1983 she officially became the first American woman astronaut on the STS 7 mission. After NASA, Ride co-founded a program called *Sally Ride Science*. Ride believed in encouraging children, mostly girls, to embrace science and engineering. This program is a tremendous advocate for advancing and teaching girls about engineering and science. It also provides young women with role models that encourage confidence and promote intellectual power.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

One of the first women to advocate and give voice to Girl Powered was Abigail Smith Adams. Her husband, John Adams, was a member of the Continental Congress fighting for America's independence from Great Britain. Abigail Adams wrote a letter to her husband on March 31, 1776 which said, "I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation." Although it took nearly 150 years to pass the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, Abigail Adams' letter marked the beginning of the fight for women's equal rights.

Team 7035S

Sofia Deek

Hana Tehrani

Bobby Higgins

Griffin Gallien

Sai Portugal

Reed Herendeen