

“Is There Anything Girls Can’t Do?”

When I hear the phrase girl powered, I think “Anything a boy can do a girl can do better.” I think girls can pay attention to details sometimes better than boys. At eleven years old I play guitar, drums, have played baseball for seven years, competed in science olympiad competitions and now I’m trying my hand at robotics.

Our team is a small diverse group made up of three boys and three girls. I am in charge of photography and taking notes. Possibly because I pay attention and can catch things that we might need to come back to later.

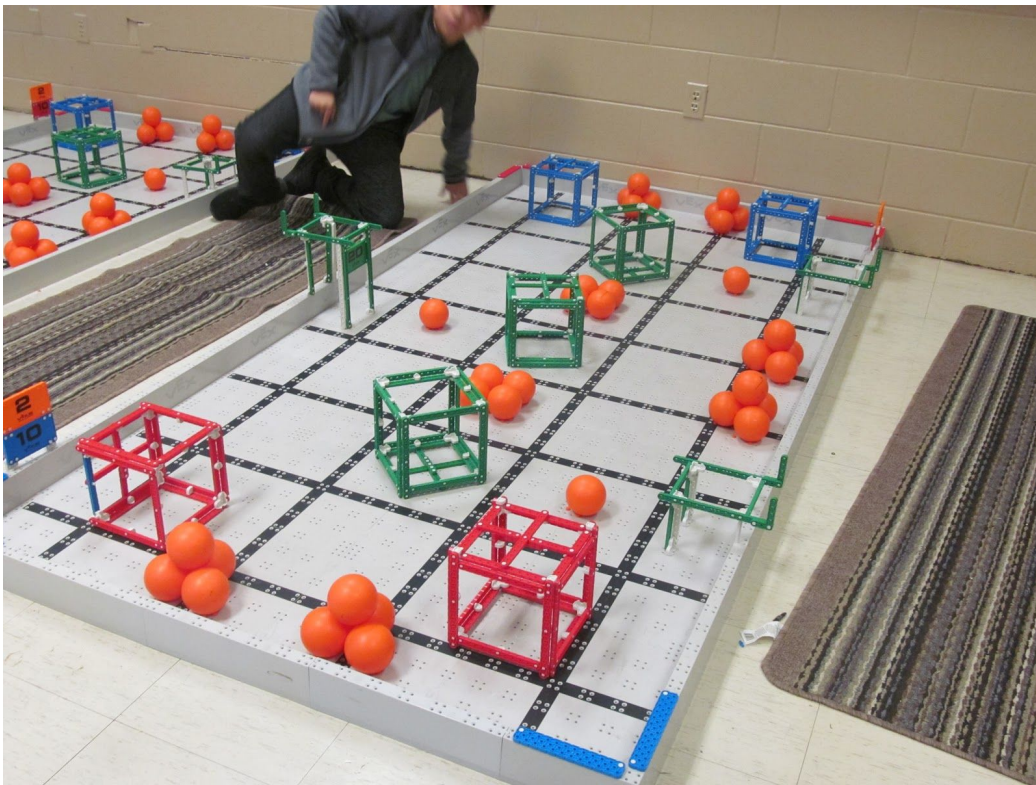
Everyone on our team has taken part in designing, building, programming, driving, setting up the field and making changes to our robot.



(Working on the robot)



(Trying out our driving skills)



(Learning to build the field)



(Our robot when we started)



(Our robot now)

I think that it is important for everyone on the team to know all aspects of the robot. Even though we have only competed in one competition so far. I think we have learned a lot. I think by competing that some of the changes made to our robot came from paying attention to details and seeing what might have worked better for other teams. I think by making changes it makes us stronger as a team. We have to communicate, make choices, agree or disagree and come to an informed decision.

Let me introduce you to the West Jefferson Elementary Robotics Team. First there is myself, Skylar Gardiner. I am 11 years old in 5th grade.



Next there is Nery Padilla. He is 11 in the 6th grade,



Next there is Elizabeth Minor. She is 10 in 4th grade,



Next there is Jady Richardson. She is 9 in 4th grade,



Next we have Karsyn Potts. He is 9 in 4th grade



Finally, we have Heath Barnett. He is 10 also in 4th grade.





(This is our team)

In our first competition we worked really well together. We went in not knowing what to expect. Being from a small school sometimes we don't have the same advantages as some of the bigger schools, but we felt like we did a pretty good job and hope to only get better from here. I myself look forward to being in robotics for years to come and learning new things along the way.

When it comes to who is my STEM role model this is hard to say. Being from a small school we focus a lot on STEM. First we have Mrs. Evans.



She is our STEM teacher. She is always doing experiments and projects with us.

Then we have Mrs. Raymond.



She is our Science Olympiad coach. Being a part of her team is so much fun. I look forward to this every year.

Then we have Mrs. Minor.



She is of course our robotics coach. Without her we would not be writing this essay today. While I have to say writing is a little out of my comfort zone I have had a blast in robotics and appreciate Mrs. Minor for all she does for us. So as far as a role model I would have to say all of these ladies are great role models and would go above and beyond for our robotics team or any other team that I was a part of. These women also set a good example of women in STEM.

In conclusion, I think there is a place for everyone. I think you have to always try new things and never give up. Even when you are not sure what to expect.

Submitted by : Skylar Gardiner

West Jeff Bots

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