Girls Takeover

For years, the females on our planet have been underestimated. However, over the years, women have started to play key roles in society. Our whole team agrees that when they hear the phrase “Girl Power” they think of a team made up of only girls who are dedicated to robotics and their love of building and programming. This is reflected by our team because half of our team are girls. All the girls on this team have key jobs. The girls on our team are very dedicated to robotics and have greatly contributed to our robot. Aarna Veera has built most of our base and half of our claw. Autumn Aldrich has helped build most of our lift and has created a spectacular engineering notebook. Iva Ivanov has coded all of our successful code. Our team attracts a diverse group of students because we are all included in our team and we all work assiduously to build and program a successful robot which can perform competitively in our next competition. Our team has tried many different jobs aside from their originally assigned ones.

Our role model is Hibah Rohmani because she has inspired us to keep moving forward and never give up when we are facing a challenge. If we face a challenge while programming our robot, she inspires us to take it face on. We do this by remembering Dr. Rohmani and how much she prospered from moving forward and never stopping. We love reading her life story where she explains how she went through so much stress in school, but then got a great job in NASA. She has prospered from her years of learning to program becoming a main part in the NASA space center.

Although quite a few women 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, she 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 science and engineering. It also provides young women with role models that encourage confidence and promote intellectual power.

Unfortunately, we have learned there are many young girls who don’t have the opportunity to be on a school’s robotics team due to lack of funding. We believe everyone deserves a chance and hope these 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!

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