

# Girl Power Awakens

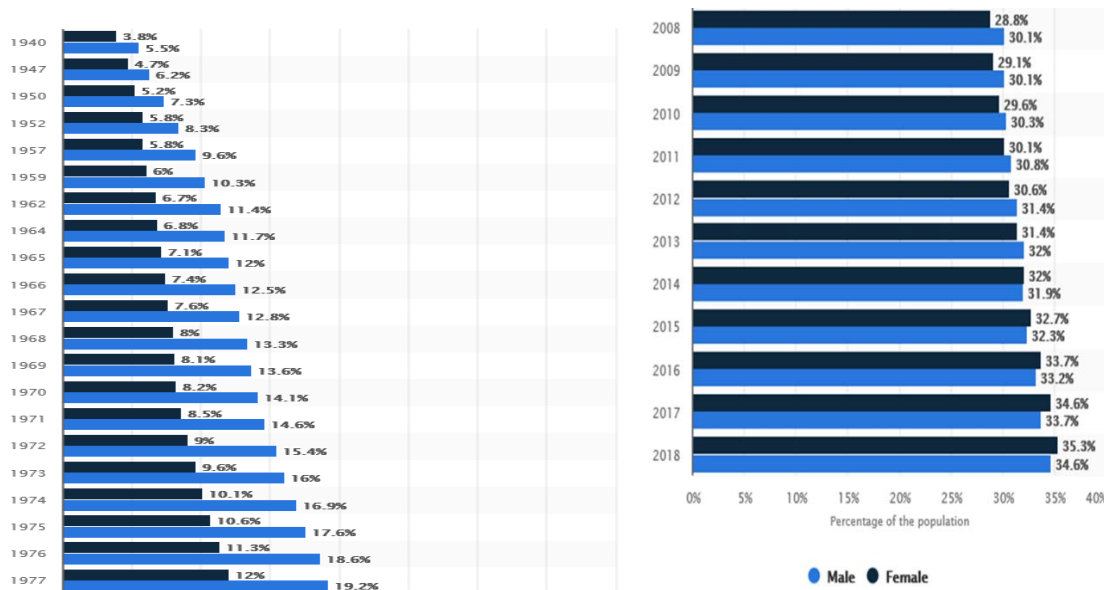
Hi, welcome to Roguebots News! We interrupt your usual program for breaking news! There has been an increase of Girl Power around the country. I'm your host, Anthony K. For us to understand what girl power is, we need to go back in time and understand how things were in the past and how those things have changed over time. In the past, most women were limited to working in the home, taking care of kids, or working jobs as teachers, nurses or secretaries. In the past, it was also very difficult for women to obtain a degree in technical fields. With time, women have broken from that mentality and increased their numbers in all areas including STEM.



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Table: Collage Students by Gender from 1940 to 2018 (partial)

www.statista.com



Nowadays women have demonstrated that they are capable and equally prepared. That mentality change is what we see today as the “GIRL POWER” movement. Women are awakening to a new era, breaking free from old thinking and fighting to show their full potential without restrictions.



Roguebots News will now introduce you to some of these remarkable people.



Hello Olivia, the first question is for you. How do girls and boys balance each other on your team?

Olivia: Our VRC team is made up of 4 girls and 3 boys and that blend has proven to be a great



balance. The reason it is a great balance is because we, as a team, recognize the strengths of each member, and what makes us different by respecting each other as individuals. For example, it has been my experience that while boys tend to focus on the “big picture” of things, girls seem to focus on the details. Both focuses are needed for a successful team. An example of the difference between girls and boys is that girls care more about fashion than boys. Girls will take longer to get ready to go out to school, church or the mall for example. This kind of attention to detail doesn’t seem to matter much to boys, but it is a skill that can be used in robotics. With a team made up of just boys they might not notice

small but important problems or critical details on the robot. This is exactly what happened on our first competition. I noticed that there was a small but important problem with the robot, the claw of the bot was slightly off on one side which made the robot too large and out of bounds. Daniel didn’t notice where the problem was, which was just a matter of moving the claw one peg backwards on just one side, making the robot also symmetrical. However, Daniel was more focused on the big picture—to make sure the robot was working. Together, we were able to make sure that the bot was not only working properly but it was inside the measurements. In conclusion, our different ways of thinking, our abilities and talents balance each other and, when we respect and appreciate those differences it makes us not only a better team but a great team!

Hello Maddie, my next question is for you. How does the phrase “Girl Power” affect your team’s approach to robotics?

Maddie: When we look at our robotics team’s overall structure, we have both male and female leaders. The male leader would act like a search site and the female leader is more like the boss managing which tasks each of us do and the time we have. We notice that in the “main” categories of building and notebooking, most of the main notebookers are females. And while all of us will work on the notebook from time to time, Sarah and Abbey are our main notebookers. Some of the reasons most notebookers are girls is because girls, at least on this team, tend to have better handwriting, time management, and as Olivia said, they pay attention to details. By having a mix of boys and girls on the team, we can better use each member’s strength and make better use of their talents.





Moving on to Sarah and on the line of chemistry; how does gender affect team chemistry? As a follow up, what differences did you notice?

Sarah: Team chemistry is very important because it controls how we work together. Our team works well because we listen to each other. For example, when I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade I started off in an mostly boys team. The team was very unorganized and very inefficient. Robot parts were everywhere and there was constant fighting between the boys. Every practice the boys would be arguing, and they would not allow another girl in the team and myself to speak at all. In the middle of the season I asked to be switched to another team that had an equal ratio of girls to boys; the second team was much more organized. Everything changed after that, the girls got a say on what we did on the robot. This balanced team allowed me to voice my opinion and find my "Girl Power." Therefore, I am all for an equal mix of boys and girls on a team. With all boys they would all fight each other but with all girls they would just talk all the whole time.



Now to hear from one of the boys in the team, Adrian. How does gender affect your team's ability to succeed?



Adrian- Having girls on the team helps with the perspective of the robot because if Olivia had not spotted the difference with the bot, we may not have made it to inspection on time. Having girls on the team also helps with the claw design because when we were discussing it; the boys wanted something that would stack quickly but the girls wanted to stack more cubes on the bot before putting them in the scoring zones. Also, for the chassis the girls wanted a sturdier chassis, but the boys wanted a more maneuverable chassis although not as stable. These are at least 3 ways that the girl power has affected the team's design.



Building our robot



For a more personal touch of “Girl Power;” who is your female STEM role model and why? First off is Abbey.

Abbey- My STEM role model is Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson. She was a NASA employee whose mathematical calculations were vital to the first US crewed space flights. She is my role model for many reasons, but I’ll share two. My first reason is she had to overcome many challenges in her workplace, for example, gaining the trust of her co-workers. An example of gaining the trust of her co-workers is, the men of her workplace thought that a woman was unable to do the same work as them. So, she had to prove that she was just as capable as the men she worked with. My second reason is how she was able to get into such a good college (West Virginia State University) being a black woman when most colleges only took white men at the time. She inspires me and my team to believe that we can achieve anything if we put our minds to it.



Daniel, who is your inspiration?

Daniel- My inspirational figure is my own grandmother, Nydia. Back in the 1970s, in Puerto Rico, when she was in university the culture only allowed women to be teachers or secretaries so when she told her parents she wanted to study math in college they were shocked. They told her to do something else because math was more of a thing men do. She disagreed with them and continued her career path. She then became a programmer and worked for three different companies. She inspires me because she pursued what she wanted to do even if her parents didn’t approve. She was also very smart and one if not the only women that went to her college. I want society to give many woman the chances she didn’t exactly have and show them how fun any S.T.E.M project can be.



Our interviews have not only proved that girls are just as strong and powerful as boys, but also just as creative and smart! Today the number of women in STEM fields is almost equal to men and that number is climbing higher and higher as shown in the table above. Everyday more and more women are going to college and receiving a higher education. As we have seen through these interviews, we have learned that girl power is at the forefront in breaking barriers and as a whole we complement each other and build on each other’s differences to make a successful team with potential to go further than as individuals.



Credits:

Team 48898R Roguebots

Members:

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Abigail Small

Anthony Kulka

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Madeline Morse-Hill

Olivia Oliver



Title: **G**irl **P**ower **A**wakens

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