

Girl Powered

From None To One: 1669Y



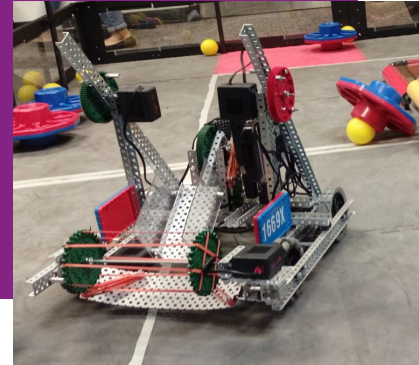
Our Simple Start

1669Y was originally G110, a small team comprised of 3 freshmen girls and 1 eighth-grader girl. We got our start at the 2018 VEX Google Girl Powered Workshop. That workshop was our “Turning-Point”, and it was there that we decided that robotics was something that we wanted to and actually needed to do because of the lack of female representation in the STEM field. We became invested in robotics and began dedicating more time and effort into our small team.



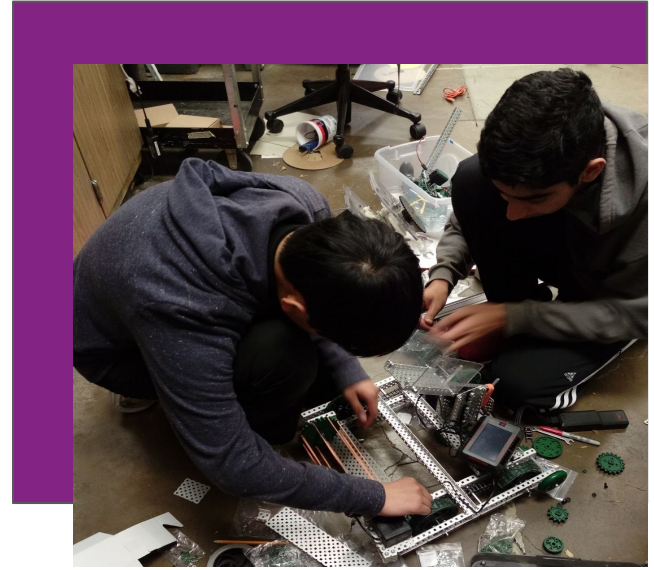
Our Simple Start

We vividly remember our first meeting with Milpitas Xtreme Robotics during our freshman year. We walked in to see a room mostly filled with boys, but there were a few girls tucked away in the corner of the room. We sit next to each other quietly, not knowing what would happen next. We quickly learn that both the president and treasurer were girls. It excites us to see that despite being a club mostly dominated by boys, we have strong female leaders. This was our first year with a VEX team and so we were all new with it. We had joined vex and so had the other girls on the team.



Our Simple Start

The year went by as we worked on the robot and went to a competition. We all enjoyed VEX, but the trouble was we never got as involved as we wanted to. We had little time to work before the competition, and the boys on the team did most of the work since they had the most experience. Summer ended, and we were excited to get back to robotics and get more hands-on experience. As robotics began again, we learned we had annexed a local all-girls team and that most of us girls would be joining it, thus began the journey of 1669Y, our strong all-girls team.



Our Team

Our team is an inclusive space for girls to explore their interest in robotics and learn new skills, which is why we chose to stay an all-girls team—to foster a sense of community for the girls interested in STEM. We welcome new girls who are interested in learning more, and our members range from freshmen to seniors in high school.



Our Dynamic

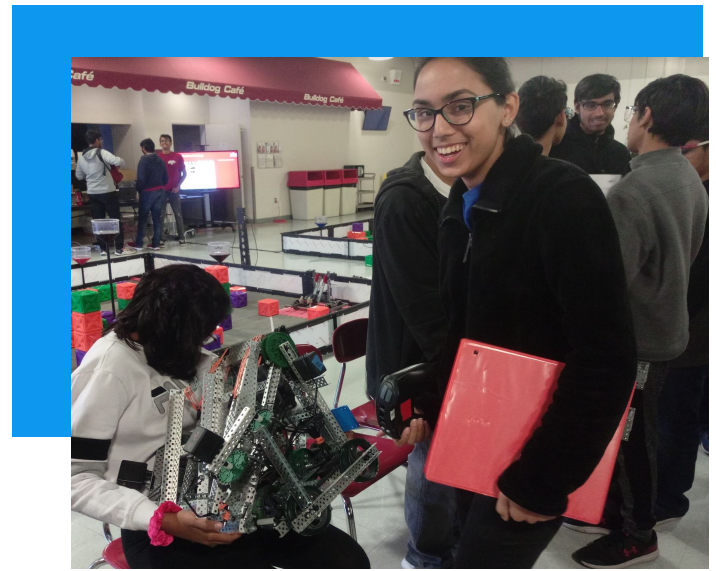
Sometimes people question our dynamic, wonder why we only have one coder or so many builders, but everyone chips in with everything; we have one member learning how to code to help our main programmer and another member experimenting with driving. Everyone does a little of everything, whether it be working on the notebook or strategizing. Especially because our team is new, having people work on tasks they are not familiar with such as coding, notebooking, or strategizing, helps us discover everyone's strengths and find the most effective way to complete the work.



Our Experiences

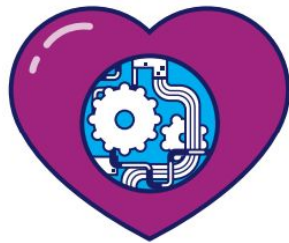
Aishah J: I remember the first time I picked up the notebook and attempted to write an entry, it was awful, but as time went on I improved and now enjoy working on the notebook as it gives me more time to analyze the mechanics of the robot.

Erin T: When I first joined the team, my role was immediately “the builder”. However, after a while, I began to ask, “How else can I contribute to the team?” I had assisted with other roles, but I had never really done much with the coding, so I gave it a shot. Even though I am just beginning to know the role, I hope that once I master it, I will be able to help our team improve even more.



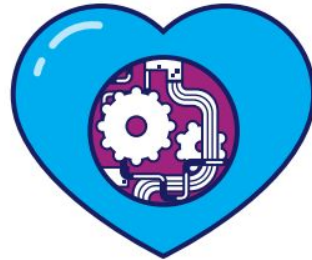
Our STEM Role Model

When we first met Chloe Wang, it was at our first robotics meeting and we were sitting in the corner of the room watching intently as she presented information about the club. We clearly remember Chloe coming up to us and saying “I’m so glad you guys joined, we really needed some more girls in the club!” Since then, we’ve had the pleasure of getting to know Chloe and see her work as the president of our club. She has worked hard to earn us more funding and create a safe environment for us to thrive. Chloe has worked hard to teach children about STEM and started an outreach program with a nearby elementary school, created a summer program for kids at the community college, and started an after-school program.



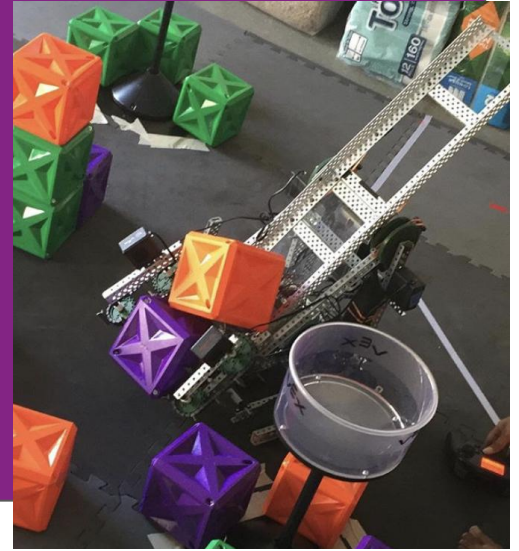
Our STEM Role Model

She has inspired the children, who are our future, as well as members of our club through her hard work and dedication. She found solutions to the problems around us, dedicating all of her time to our club, and she thoroughly enjoys it. She saw that our club had divisions based off of each team and found a simple solution—an inter-club competition that allowed everyone to participate. She is the kind of person many of us strive to be; a kind, caring, goal-oriented person. We hope that as an all girls group, we will be able to make as big, or larger, an impact as Chloe.



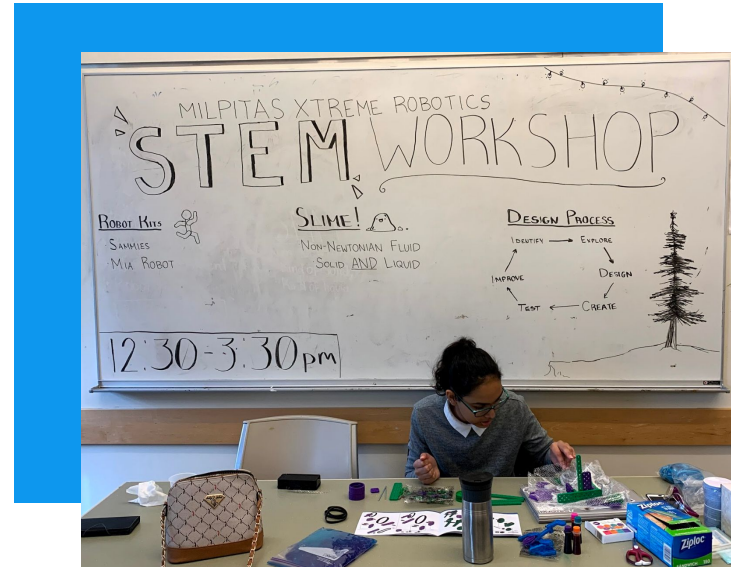
Our Work

Our team works hard but also has fun while we work. We all enjoy robotics and enjoy discussing design aspects and strategy in order to better ourselves, which is why we allow ourselves ample time before and after competitions to discuss strategy and possible problems. Our team divides work in order to complete it on time; our range of grades allows for a guarantee that someone has free time to work on the robot, which helps us in completing everything. Our hard work has led to us getting the sportsmanship award at a recent competition.



Our Work

While volunteering at our afterschool program, we realized there were very few girls in the class and that they were not participating very much, just like us when we first started. Similar to what Chloe did, we wanted to do the same by helping create an environment where young girls could thrive and learn about STEM. This led us to host our own Girl Powered workshop, in which we built Sammies, Vex IQ Mia kits, and studied non-Newtonian fluids. This workshop created a fun, creative space for girls to learn about STEM. With more experience, we plan to hold more events just like this.



From None To One
Authors: Aishah Jaffery
& Erin Takeshima
Team: 1669Y