

The Empowering Efforts of She Can Tech

Girl powered initiatives are some of the most encouraging events for girls in STEM. This is because they have the ability to shape the careers and interests that many girls in STEM may choose in their future. This is a statement that can be applied to all of the girls on our team, 2567 K. This inspires the team to continue to educate the girls in our community. There are four women on 2567 K: Mireina, Jade, Sara, and Makayla. All of whom have attended multiple girl empowerment events for girls in STEM and, all have assisted in the process of hosting an event. One with the entire Porta-Botz team, and one of their own.



In 2018, three former Porta-Botz members, and current member, Mireina, started She Can Tech, a near-peer computer science camp for young girls. Current members, Jade and Makayla, participated in the camp and decided to become co-leaders for next year's camp, alongside Sara and Mireina. With the new and returning leaders, these girls decided to continue the camp with not only the same workshops as the year before, but started with exploring different opportunities as well. This program is only possible because of NCWIT, the National Center for Women in Technology. Their funding allows us to host our workshops, and to continue encouraging the young girls in our community.



Ice Breaker Activity



Scratch Workshop



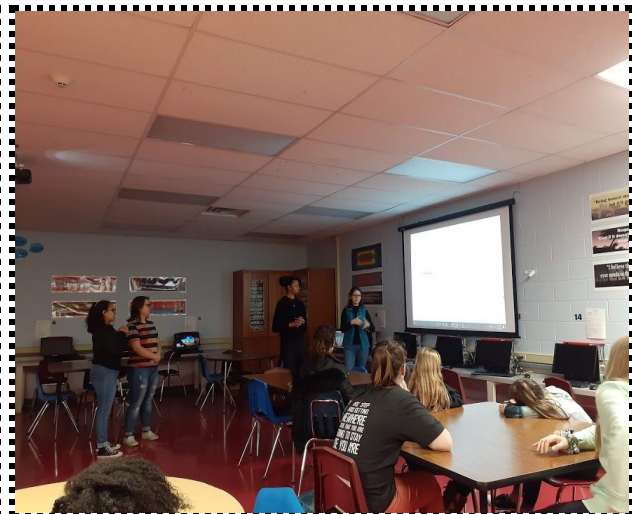
Share Circle Discussing STEM



Scratch Workshop



Makey Makey Activity



Founding Members ,She Can Tech, Presentation

This year, She Can Tech applied for the “T-Mobile Changemaker Challenge” with a video demonstrating our program. [View our submission here!](#) Our program, She Can Tech, was one of the Top 30 winners of this challenge, and received additional “seed funds” to continue our project. She Can Tech was also granted the honor of sending two of our members to Washington, Seattle in February to take part in the ChangeMaker Lab. At this event, they will participate in intensive workshops that will help us expand the program.

In early October, three of the girls on our team attended a Girl Powered event in Wawasee. Mireina, a senior, has attended this event for three years. At this event, they spoke with a panel of women in STEM; however, most of the women attending were from the same field: biomedical engineering. This was a little disheartening because there was not a very diverse perspective from women in STEM. In addition, the panel of women were also divided by age, which was problematic because the younger girls could not share the same experience older girls had. This inspired us to plan a Girl (Em)Powered Summit that provided a diverse panel of speakers with everyone included in the same room.

In late October 2019, the Porta-Botz hosted their first girl powered event featuring 16 powerful women, ranging from Navy officers, professors, mechanics, business owners, and engineers, to talk to the local girls about overcoming the challenges of being a women interested in STEM. This event was extremely meaningful because for years, the girls on the Porta-Botz have had to make a two hour road trip to the nearest girl powered event. Consequently, to have a girl powered event closer to home allowed for our peers to experience the same empowering event that we have been lucky enough to attend for many years. This event turned even more special when the girls on 2567 K were offered a position to monitor the panel and introduce our speakers, while representing their program, She Can Tech.



The 16 Girl Powered Speakers



All the Volunteers for Girl Powered



Girl Powered Networking



Girl Powered Networking



Girl Powered Panel



She Can Tech Prize Giveaway

These empowering activities that the girls on 2567 K partake in have helped the team run as a whole. After we had hosted the Girl Powered event, it was crunch time for our first tournament of the season, which was only 2 weeks away! The girls used their new-found friendship to work together to achieve as much as possible in programming, CAD, and notebooking. This meant that we all contributed to things that were not our specialty to make sure that we had as much done as humanly possible, something that we still do even to this day.

Team 2567 K is comprised of both girl empowerment and friendship. Without these two elements, our team would simply be just any team trying to get as far as they can in the robotics season and never talk to each other again. We plan to continue to mentor the girls in our community so that they know that STEM and robotics is okay, and that they are not alone.

Credits:

Entrant: Jade Kokinda

Team: 2567 K

Title: The Empowering Efforts of She Can Tech