

What it means to be a girl powered VEX IQ Robotics team

The focus of this essay will be about the ups and downs of our team and how the composition of our team is girl powered. In this essay we have addressed how we work together to accomplish mutual goals and ideas to reach our ultimate goal which is, making it to the VEX World Competition. We have also addressed the challenge questions and how the male/female components worked together to write this essay. We hope our essay addresses our perspective of the challenge questions in an enjoyable manner.

When we hear the phrase “Girl Powered” what comes to mind is that at least half of the group are girls and that both the girls and boys strive together to reach the goal they have set. How it is reflected in our team’s approach to robotics is that the boys and girls work together doing different aspects of the VEX competition to achieve the same goal, which is to make it to and win the VEX World Competition. How each team member has tried various roles on the team is, the 7th grade girl in our team, Alexandria Hale (a medium height black haired girl with a lot of freckles) has been on our robotics team as a manager and has learned how to do almost every aspect of the VEX Robotics Competition. Kaitlynn Lynn (a tall dirty blond haired girl with freckles) has tried building and she didn’t really like it, so she tried programming and she found that it was what she enjoyed doing and that she was good at it. She also discovered that she enjoyed doing online challenges for the team and she found she enjoyed helping with the engineering notebook for the team. Kaitlynn and Alexandria have been informing us how to achieve winning the awards also. Gavin, (a medium height dirty blond hair boy with glasses) tried building and driving and he discovered that is what he enjoyed doing and that he is good at it. So now, he is the main builder of the team supported by our next person we will be talking about. JT, otherwise known as Jyles Prescott (a skinny black haired boy) is a support builder to Gavin and one of the 3 drivers of our team right now including the afore mentioned, Gavin, and the newest addition to our team, Kaleb. JT helped with the building of our first robot that we took to our first competition and qualified for state with. The next member who is the newest addition to our team and is one of the afore mentioned is, Kaleb. Kaleb (a medium height dark brown haired boy with glasses) has been learning how to be a driver and help Kaitlynn with some of the programming. He has also been helping with other aspects of the competition, like the online challenges. He is currently getting better at driving and he will soon get better at the other aspects of the competition like the other team members. We have all learned a little of the aspects, driving, building, programming, and writing the engineering notebook as well as informing the others how to get certain awards to qualify. We learned how to find the fastest path when driving, how to make codes for moving, how to take a bunch of pieces and turn them into one robot, and how to make sure our writing in the engineering notebook is organized and is what is expected of an engineering notebook.

We believe diversity changes our perspective on our robot design by people giving different ideas for the robot and us taking everyone’s idea into consideration and making the best possible robot we can make. Diversity helps our team chemistry by everyone pitching in and helping the others with all the aspects of the competition in some way. Also, diversity makes everyone in the group look at things in a different way or perspective to find a better or easier way to do something like building, programming, driving, writing the notebook, and even the online competitions like the one this essay is for. Diversity

helps our ability to succeed because everyone is helping the other people on the team by finding any mistakes they have made and helping them get better at either driving, programming, building, or writing the engineering notebook. Mistakes they could point out are how their driving can be changed to go faster or slower for different cubes first, how the programmer should go for the most points the most efficiently, how the builder should make it faster or with a different mechanism to get the cubes faster or more efficient, and grammar, speech, or detail problems in the engineering notebook. Our STEM role model is our robotics coach, Mr. Kennedy. He is always inspiring us to do better even if we think we are already doing well. He taught us how to solve problems on our own and to make sure everyone is doing their part and getting things done on time. He motivates us to come up with new ideas, to find a better and more efficient way to do things, and he motivates us to just have fun doing what we are doing. So I do believe he is also making the team more welcoming to new people who joined later than others and have it where we can try different things and help each other out. He inspires us each and every day and he still continues to do so. We all hope that we can inspire others to do robotics and get more women into the science and engineering fields.

This is our essay on what it means to be a girl powered VEX IQ Robotics team and our answers to the questions that were asked.

References:

Kaitlynn Lynn

Kaleb Oliver

Team number: Bad Memory, 35594B.

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Team Picture