

## We are team 1069K the Awkward Cats and we are Girl Powered!

Hi! We are 1069K from Berthoud Robotics Club in Berthoud, Colorado. We used to be the RoboKitten Wizards and are now the Awkward Cats. We have changed a lot from last year to this one just like our name. Being Girl Powered means lots of things to us. It means we are brave and not afraid to try things others think we can't, it means having fun and helping our friends when things are hard, and it means doing things because you are interested and motivated just like Marie Curie.

Here are some examples. Last year we were the youngest team in Colorado because we had a 6 year old, two 7 year olds, and an 8 year old. We were all girls with a girl coach. Some of the people in our club told our coach we were too young for robotics, but she made our team anyway. We won an Excellence Award and got to go to state!

Our teams last year and this year have old friends from preschool, family members (Piper and Indira are cousins), and new friends that we just met. Milo joined our team this year. He is the only boy and goes to a different school but he fits in with and us we have fun together. Each of us likes to do different things and dislikes doing others for robotics. Here is what we do. Mia likes to build and drive. She can stay focused when things are crazy during a driving match. Indira doesn't like to build but works really hard on making sure the engineering notebook is just right. She likes to drive a little bit. Piper is super excited about writing code and seeing what her words can make the robot do. She also helps do everything else on the team. Milo likes to build, code and drive. He is always using math to think about robotics. Milo does not like to write in the notebook. We have lots of pictures of us below for you to see.

We have had to be brave and not shy when working with alliance partners especially when we drive with middle school teams! We also have to be brave and not shy when talking to judges. When we talk to the judges we help each other by telling things someone else may have forgot to say and by complementing the thing our teammates have done to make us successful.

We have been inspired by Marie Curie and Indira's and Piper's older brother and sister who have done robotics for a long time. Marie Curie is an

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inspiration to us because she is Indira's favorite scientist. Marie Curie did things that girls were not supposed to do like keep speaking Polish when the Russians wanted her to speak only Russian. She went to college to learn about science and started her own research when men were the ones who did research when she was alive. Also, she had to show perseverance when she was sick from her experiments and when her husband died. We are motivated by her because she kept doing the things she wanted no matter what people said or when she had to get through tough experiences.

Indira's brother Kade and Piper's sister Ronnie have been doing VEX robotics for a long time. Their team belongs to the same club as we do. They are 1069C. We got to watch them earn awards and go to the World's competition where they met kids from lots of different countries, fly on airplanes, and stay in a hotel! They let us drive their robots and hang out with them while they were building. Now that we have our own team their robotics team helps teach us things, gives us advice, and they come to volunteer as judges and referees at our tournaments. They have motivated us and encourage us to be better at robotics.



*Girl powered in this picture means this season is a good accomplishment a good reward for the team. We love spending time with our friends! And we love frozen yogurt. Also laughing for no reason. It's just really fun when you're with friends and you are getting frozen yogurt.*

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Girl powered means the going gets tough when you are tired and building or writing or just doing anything pretty much. Robotics is hard. But it is a good learning experience. All though it's hard sometimes it can be really fun. Girl powered means having your teammates to help you and cheer you up when your robot breaks or you don't drive good in a match. Also, we help each other by thinking of different ways to fix the robot when it breaks.



Girl powered in this picture means that even though you need to focus you might lose it if you stay focused for too long. Also you can also just be weirdos sometimes if you want to. But having fun can come to you even when you are working. Maybe being weird is just a good thing for being weird. Milo is new to our team and the only boy. Also, he goes to a different school than us. He's a good addition to our team because he's fun and weird just like us.



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Girl power in this picture means that we are supported by a lot of people. For example our dads. With people that support the team we can do things that we love with the people that are on our team or the people we love as well. Also, when your team is supported it helps the coach as well as the kids on the team. Our coach is Indira's mom and Piper's aunt. She helps us do hard things and encourages us to keep working because we have potential. Milo's dad teaches us how to code. Piper's dad teaches us how to build and think of machines. Mia's dad helps think of ways we can do better and is there to cheer us on. All our families help us by volunteering at tournaments, designing our shirts, raising money, and watching us compete.



In this picture girl power means taking a risk to try something new because you love science and your friends. This can be frustrating and you need focus and patience with each other. You have to listen to your team mate's ideas and make sure you try to get along even when you are tired and grumpy.

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Girl power in this is that you might be shy but you can find the right time to use it when you are talking to the judges at a competition. Also you can share ideas that your teammates didn't think of. Maybe it was scary at first but it gets more fun to talk in front of judges.



Thank you for reading about us. We hope you liked our essay!

From the Awkward Cats - Indira, Mia, Milo and Piper

1069K