

VRC Girl Powered Online Challenge Sponsored by Google



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NOVA

THE BEGINNING OF THIS PASSION

WHO AM I?



Hello everyone!

My name is Adriana Lujan Ibarra Alvarez, I am a 15-year-old who lives in the city of Aregua, Paraguay. I'm from the 53817A - NOVA team and I practice robotics since I was 10 years old when I was in fourth grade.

WHAT DO I THINK ABOUT WOMEN IN ROBOTICS?

When I hear the phrase GIRL POWERED comes to mind that women can also do the jobs that were previously thought only men could do. Today women and men can do the same work and more and more women are encouraged to do jobs that, not so long ago, were unthinkable for them.

Both women and men have the ability to work on projects that are part of STEAM, we only need patience, dedication and care to perform each of these Jobs.



WHAT IS THE LNR?

The National Robotics League is a national competition in which young people with big dreams and goals for the future participate, this competition gives us opportunities and fulfills the dreams of many of us.



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My team and I are part of this competition for 4 seasons already and we are getting better and learning more of our mistakes every day.

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We are from the VRC High school category, in my team we are 7 participants: Tobias who is the team captain (15 years) is also the builder with Germán. Junior, Mathias and Hugo are our 3D designers, Felipe is the programmer and I Adriana writer of the engineering book.

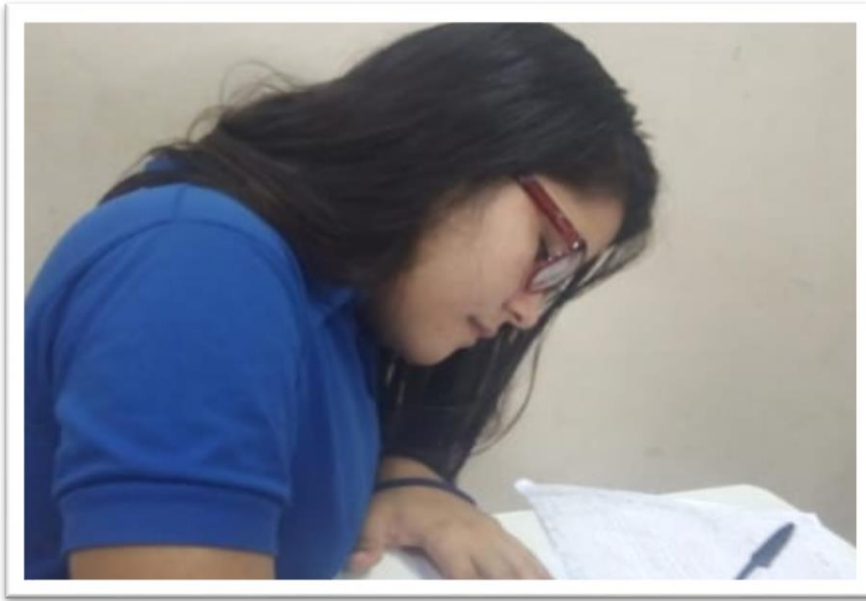
With my team we relate very well, we share many times together, we try to lead a class in harmony and based on respect where each brings their knowledge and ways to solve our problems in terms of the different areas of STEAM.

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We also have our coach who makes the team the best.

Melissa Adriana Gonzalez Ortiz is our 24-year-old coach, is an engineering student and is a vex iq and vrc teacher, she motivates us and drives us to fulfill our duties while helps us solve problems during and before the competitions, with her young age she handles the group, understands us and at the same time demands us to be the best.

THE DISCOVERY OF MY PASSION :



From when I was a child I felt a great passion to discover and try new things, so in early 2014 I was given the possibility to participate in robotics courses where I designed, built and

programmed prototypes for challenges that the robot had to meet, at the time we were 6 women and 10 men between the ages of 10 and 14.

THE DISCOVERY OF MY PASSION :

When I got to every practice I was excited to discover what we would do in the class and what new thing I would learn, over the years I learned more and that became a passion for robotics and STEAM, that's how my life took a change, I discovered that this was what I was passionate about and maybe my lifelong vocation, it was as part of something fun, something educational, that would help me to solve problems, work as a team, be creative, optimistic, and above all have fun with the work I do and not only take it as a simple hobby but a beginning of dreams and the opening of new doors.

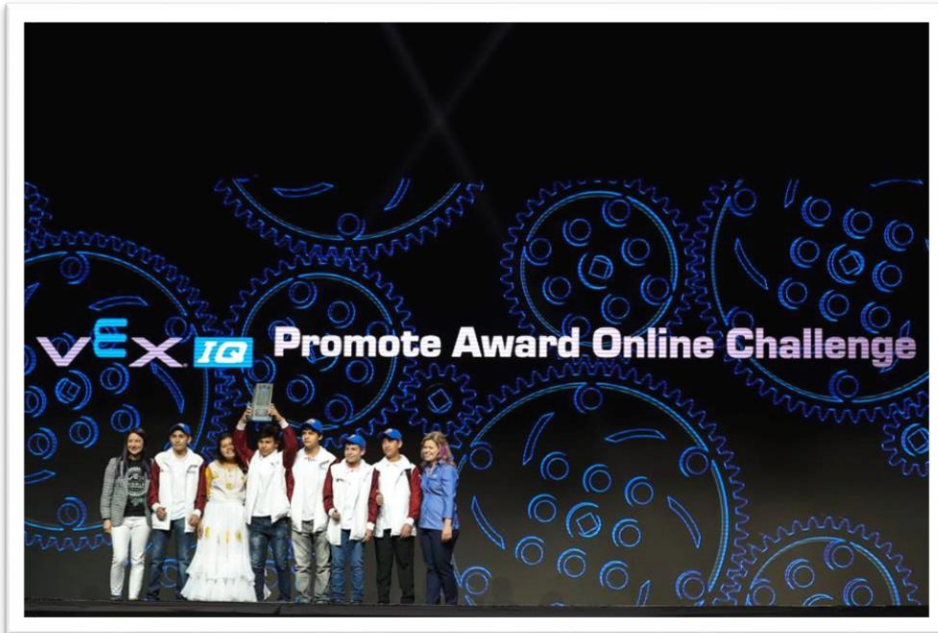
MY BEGINNINGS:



In mid-2016 we were presented with a new challenge: to participate in the national robotics league, a competition that takes place every month and where, at the beginning of march, the best in the competition is

chosen and will represent Paraguay in the Vex World Championship, every month we had to prepare and go to compete at various points in the city of Asuncion (schools, universities, etc.). Our first year was difficult but over time we improved.

MY BEGINNINGS:



In 2018 we participated in the online challenges, we were finalists in 2 of them and we won the VIQC Promote Awards, thus obtaining a direct pass to the 2018 Vex World Championship, where we lived an experience unforgettable and we learned a lot.

VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION



In august of that same year, after a few months of rest, we returned to training and changed the category, went to VRC and recognized the new challenge: Turning Point. In that season we did not do well, but those experiences helped us improve for this season, so

much so that in this season we got 3 trophies for design and the congratulations of the juries.

ROBOTICS MAKE FRIENDS



In the competitions we not only compete but also make friends who have the same spirit and passion for robotics, young people with many dreams and desire to overcome themselves.

With many of them we speak outside and within the competition, more than a competition is a way to support each other to achieve what we want and give us the strength to follow.

MOTIVATIONAL TALKS



In 2018 and 2019, motivational talks were held, the last time it was held at the Campus Party event. An inspirational **GIRL POWERED** talk for girls, where one of my friends told us about her testimony, she told us about her experience in the competition and in the vex world. In the talk, we

were told that a woman can be a mother, a housewife, a wife and continue to create and work on what she is passionate about, with effort and enthusiasm.

STEAM ROLE MODEL



My Steam model to follow in my robotics teacher: Melissa Gonzalez. She is a student, entrepreneur and researcher. In the future I want to be like her, she is very clear about what she will do in her future, her way of thinking encourages me and motivates me. She inspires me and all my teammates. Her responsibility, her optimism, her love for programming and her dedication make her unique. Besides, she came to change our team, but It change for the better and it's one of the reasons why we get optimal results.

Robotics inspires teenagers, girls and teachers to continue striving for the dreams we want to fulfill, because it's never too late to try, even if you have to sacrifice thousands of things for something you want to achieve.

In conclusion, robotics is more than a competition, robotics is an art that opens doors for us to fulfill our dreams and is my desire is that more women will be encouraged to be a part of this and strive to achieve everything they set out.

Cheer up and fight to be engineers, artists and scientists in the future!





“The beginning of this passion”

Adriana Ibarra

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