

NPHS is Girl Powered.

Created by Team 899A from North Point High School





Our Story



If you looked at our robotics club 4 years ago, you would not recognize it. Not only because of all the new faces our team has acquired, but the lack of female representation we had. To put things into perspective, we have more than doubled our club's size, and increased the number of women to almost half our club's population. This is one of our greatest accomplishments as a team. We are proud of how far we have come as a club with the level of participation and female representation. We set a goal for ourselves in sophomore year: to get more students involved, and increase female interest in VEX. We accomplished this mission, beginning with North Point's first all-girls team.



Our first all-female team at North Point began with the founders: the women of team 899A. We recruited female students, filling our team up to total 10 women. We were exhilarated to have so many girls join the team, and hoped the trend we started would continue. When we think of Girl Powered, we think of our first all-female team, the Eaglettes, and the legacy we began. The trend of female participation has only increased, and the girls in our school are becoming more interested in joining VEX each year. We believe the stereotype of VEX Robotics being a male dominated and intimidating program has been demolished in the eyes of our peers. We wanted to make a change, and we were successful.







We decided to combine all the seniors of the club into one team this year, resulting in 899A. We each have at least 3 years of experience in VEX. The reasoning behind this was because of our team growing so drastically in the time span of just 3 years. Our club introduced a brand new fourth team to compensate for all the new members we recruited this year. We knew many of the freshmen who joined would require mentors to guide them, so all the seniors decided to step up and help the other teams with their robots while simultaneously constructing our own robot. We have a large team of 13, meaning everyone has a hand in building and strategizing. There are two programmers, four drivers, and two outreach coordinators. But we are all mentors for the underclassmen. We make ourselves available during meetings to help the other teams when they have trouble with programming, building, or just need some advice. We are proud to have garnered such a large team, requiring the addition of 2 teams in the past 3 years.





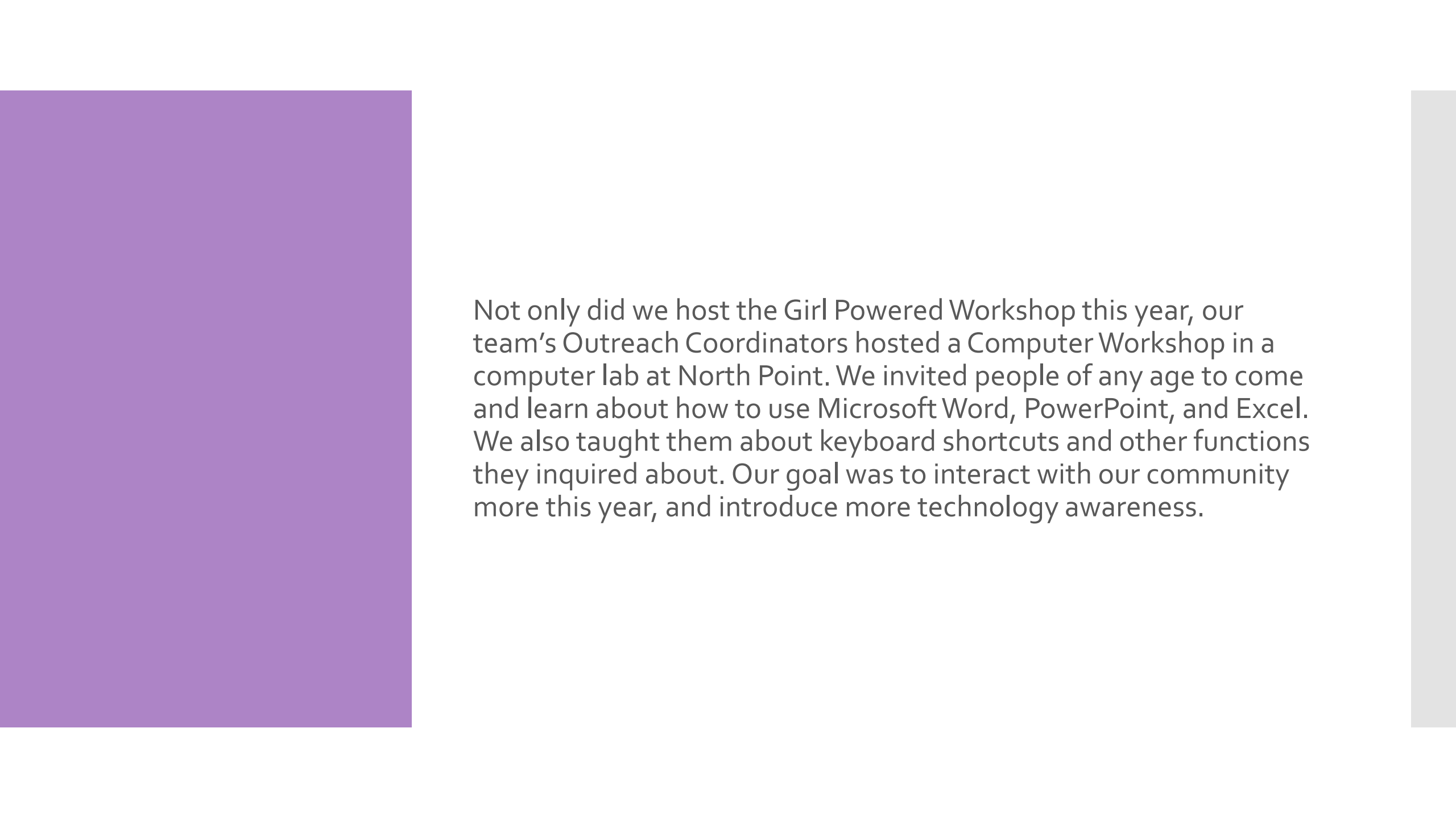


Outreach



Our next step was to reach out beyond our school. Starting in 2017, our team began hosting an annual Girl Powered Workshop at North Point. We invite young girls from all around Charles County as young as 3rd graders to come to the workshop and learn about why STEM is so invigorating. We encourage their interest in robotics at their own schools by having them collaborate in teams to build VEX IQ robots, then letting them strategize and drive the robots on the field. They have lots of fun participating in their own championship, which gives them a taste of the excitement we feel at our own competitions. We also design and plan other activities they enjoy like creating their own lava lamps and introducing Hour of Code. In addition, they get to hear inspirational stories from female guest speakers we invite to the workshop.





Not only did we host the Girl Powered Workshop this year, our team's Outreach Coordinators hosted a Computer Workshop in a computer lab at North Point. We invited people of any age to come and learn about how to use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. We also taught them about keyboard shortcuts and other functions they inquired about. Our goal was to interact with our community more this year, and introduce more technology awareness.



Personal Accounts

Meet Our Mentor, Mr. Olufade!



Q: Why do you like robotics?

A: One of the things that is beautiful about robotics is how it teaches students to work collaboratively to create solutions to problems. . . In the 21st century, the workforce requires students to have the skills and ability to solve problems. . . I am hoping I can play my part in mentoring and facilitating the students so they can be the best that they can be.

Q: How does diversity play a role on our team?

A: Diversity absolutely plays a big role. One of the things I am really happy about our team is the involvement and engagement of so many ladies. It is a lot of fun to have ladies become empowered working together on the team and with the men. You are very inspiring to our school and the young ladies who watch you go to these events.

Meet Shannon



Q: What did you learn in VEX that you will take to University?

A: I will take the organizational skills I learned while building the robot and meeting certain deadlines and experiencing stressful conditions. I will also take the team building skills I learned with 899A. We faced very stressful situations where we had to communicate as much as we could in order to complete our tasks.

Q: As a woman in STEM, what is the importance of VEX Robotics?

A: I feel like we should have more representation. This is why we have Girl Powered workshops, to help encourage young females to enter the STEM community like VEX Robotics which will empower them.

Meet Axel



Q: Why did you choose to do VEX?

A: I chose to do VEX because I saw it as an opportunity to meet new people and be able to collaborate on a common goal.

Q: If you could describe VEX in one word, what would you say and why?

A: Boisterous. There are so many different types of people on our team, and some clashing personalities. A meeting is never quiet, since teamwork requires constant communication, and we try to work quickly to meet our deadlines. We all work well together and eventually get the job done, but since we're also friends, meetings can go a little haywire.

Meet Mary Anne



Q: What do you think our team legacy will be as seniors in VEX?

A: Since we have a lot of girls on our team, I think our team will be known as having a group of girls that really contribute to VEX. We have such strong, powerful women on our team, and these girls going to college will really make a difference in the world.

Q: What is your team dynamic?

A: We have a lot of fun. We always see each other outside of school, so we're like, "Hey, what's up? How's the robot doing?" We're not just about robotics. We're not just a robotics team, we're a group of friends so we're not always talking about the robotics program. We talk about classes and things going on. It's a really friendly, fun dynamic.

Meet Shelby

Q: How does diversity play a role on your team?

A: Diversity plays a role in our team through how we work together and problem solve. Many of us are involved in different CTE (Career Technology Education) programs at North Point, which give us many different knowledge points that we can use during the production of the robot.

Q: Why is increased female representation important in VEX?

A: If women can gain a voice here in VEX, they will grow with that voice and use it in their future STEM field, or any career they choose. This is why we try to inspire young girls early in the Girl Powered workshop.

Credits

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Created by Team 899A

Entrants: Shelby Hiens, Mary Anne Onianwah, Max Stein, Ariana Capati, Angelo Capati, Kai Ko, Shannon Austria, Christopher Moreno, Katelyn Carman, Lauren Chandler, Kritchanan Yampai, Axel Rodriguez, Alyssa Cummings, Angela Bautista