

girl pow-er

noun

used in reference to an attitude of independence, confidence, and empowerment among young women.

Girl Powered isn't only about girls being strong and smart, its that despite the circumstances and what society believes, girls persist through the challenges that may block their road to success.

Some girls may be led to believe that they are not as capable as boys, however, the Girl Powered Initiative says otherwise. It inspires young girls to participate in STEM-related activities



and promotes confidence in themselves. Although doing robotics might not be the norm for girls, it is super fun and I could not imagine my life without it.

When I tried out for my school's robotics team, I was very nervous.

I feared that the team would be only boys and that I would be excluded and unheard. It's nerve-wracking joining a S.T.E.M. club when you know the majority is going to be boys. Luckily, I was worrying for no reason because when I met my team I was welcomed with open arms and I was able to meet other girls who shared the same interests. Throughout our work on our robot, JACOBY, equal opportunity for everybody to contribute has become a priority and is essential to our team dynamics.

After joining “The A-Team”, I’ve realized that no matter how mix-matched a team is it can still work as long as everyone has the same goal. Being a part of such a diverse team has led to debates over the best possible solution to problems and I’d like to think that I bring a positive outlook to competitions. For instance, when we were at a competition, our last two matches had not gone well so I tried to get everyone to stay positive and not to be sore losers, which led to them nicknaming me the “Positivity Train”. This also affected our team roles as drivers, builders, and programmers. Charlotte has helped me realize my love for programming, Jack and Jacob are great builders and drivers, and Charlotte helps with the test runs. In my opinion, a mixed group can get a lot more work done because of the arguments that are made and the variety of ideas.

Most people’s role model would be an athlete, superhero, or their favorite celebrity, but ours is Mrs. Whitehead. Through our rough times during the school year, Mrs. Whitehead has always encouraged us to do our best. She can find a different perspective to help us fix the challenges that we face and expects the best from everyone no matter what gender, race, or experience. The girls in OMMS robotics might not have many female superheroes to look up to but we have Mrs. Whitehead and that’s more than we could ever ask for.



Although I was anxious about joining VEX IQ, since the majority of the people trying out would be boys, I'm very grateful that I got up the nerve to do it. I used to think that S.T.E.M. was a boy thing, but then I started doing it more and I realized how much I enjoyed it. By being a part of VEX IQ, I have learned the real meaning of being Girl Powered and have gained confidence in my ability to succeed.

GIRL POWERED EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY!
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