

*THE FUTURE
IS FEMALE*



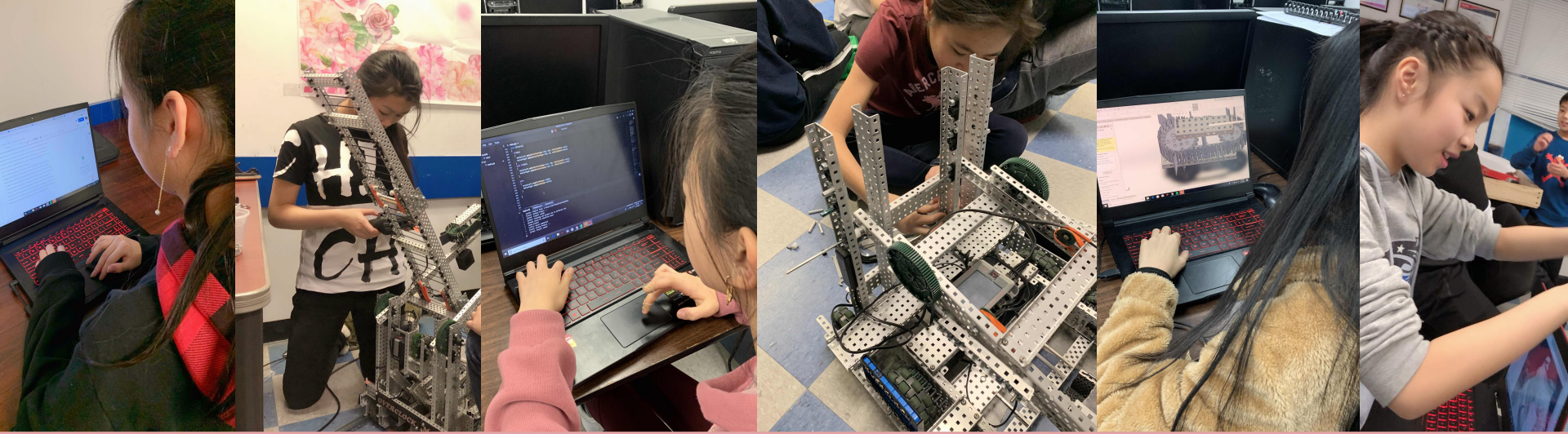


1
6
6
9
9
Z

What is girl-powered to a team of six middle school girls? Girl powered is a **promotion of strength** in women and girls, especially through robotics. By encouraging involvement in the STEM field, *girls like us can prove that we're just as capable as boys.* To us, girl-powered is not only an image of self-confidence but also **empowering other girls to be their best selves**, which is a core value that 16699Z builds its foundation on. Countless women have paved the way so that girls could receive equal treatment as boys. Women such as Marie Curie (physicist and chemist), Ada Lovelace (mathematician and writer), and Isabel Ge Mahe (businesswoman & Vice President of Apple) have been contributing to society, **breaking stereotypes** and **overcoming gender boundaries** to make some of the most significant discoveries to their field. One such woman who has inspired us is Sophia Velastegui, a Korean engineer, recognized by Business Insider as the “Most Powerful Female Engineer in 2017.” She has worked for companies such as Apple, Nest, and Applied Materials, and is not only bridging the gender gap but also the diversity gap- Sophia Velastegui is one of the substantial Asian women in engineering.

Girl powered holds importance to us because it has **created a bond** and **kept us together** through many challenges that have tested the limits of our team. Girl powered has taught us to **listen** to each other, **support** each other, and **help** each other get past difficult times not only in robotics. Prior to robotics, each of 16699Z's team members had their own extracurriculars. For example, Emily, the team captain, sails at her school and dances. Lidia, our team's vice-captain, also does dance. Both Leonna, our secretary, and Fiona, a builder, play basketball on their school teams and do track & field. Ada, the shop manager, composes her own music and also writes in her spare time, while Natalie, our team's coder, has modeled during the summer. We six girls were in a summer robotics class was an introduction to the key fundamentals of VEX Robotics. This allowed us to have the same knowledge as guys.






We wanted to create a team that allowed everyone to join and **work equally, regardless of age, gender, religion, level of experience, etc.** Through our experiences, we learned how to organize tasks among ourselves and set down different roles and responsibilities, which is crucial to how we work as a team. *We want each member on the team to find what they like doing best,* every person is required to at least try their hand at programming, CAD, or building. Contributing to the engineering notebook is a must, since it wouldn't be fair to assign a majority of the notebook to just one person. **By being well-rounded in all areas, our team can be prepared** for any situation in which we have to fix our robot, the code, or the engineering notebook.

Robotics has given us *something to bond over*, and without that, we most likely would not have had such a close friendship with each other as of now. Although we all come from ***different backgrounds, families, lifestyles, and schools*** from all over New York, we managed to find the thing that we all enjoyed, and that is truly the reason why 16699Z has girl power. Being an all-girls team, we had to face many downgrading comments made by guys our age.

At school, we were constantly made fun of because robotics was a “boy sport.” *These comments never dismayed us* but **made us more determined to prove that girls are just as good in the STEM field** as guys. What kept us determined was our perseverance and confidence.





Girl-powered is an *empowering* phrase for women today. It **demonstrates independence and confidence** for women not only in the STEM fields. Joining Overclock allowed us to have a chance to show that men are not the only ones that can dominate robotics. Girl-powered is a powerful word and we believe that with girl power we can *overcome* the *stereotype* of women having a lower status than men.

