

Girl Powered through my team

Looking back to our team's first meet I remember being really nervous. I was the only girl on my team. But now I've realized I wouldn't want it any other way. Everyone on my team works very well together. Even though we have our disagreements we have overall gotten over them and continued to work well together. If you had asked me what it meant to be a girl powered team before I joined robotics I probably would have said a team of all girls. Of course I would have been wrong. We are a girl powered team and our team consists of five boys and one girl. A girl powered team is one that is accepting. It could yes, be all girls but it doesn't have to be. It could be a team of all boys. As long as they empower the girls on their team by including girls and we are working together to design, build, and code our robot we can be girl powered if want to. Most of my team members are younger than me so if we hadn't been put on to the same team I would have never gotten to know them. They are now some of my best friends. I'm so glad I met them.

On our team each person doesn't really have a specific job. We work better this way because we tried assigning jobs based on what we like to do and what we are good at. But we are an equal team and we don't believe it is fair to work like that because then if one member is always the only one building or designing then everyone else on the team can never get a chance to. Which isn't fair. We have learned that this strategy works well for our team.

Each member of our team has a different perspective on robotics. Which leads to great ideas on how we should design and build our robot. How we decide on how to design our robot is we usually will vote or use a decision matrix. We discuss our ideas and occasionally draw them out. At our first meeting we decided how we would score points with our robot. We all had very different ideas. In the end we took the best parts from each of our designs and created a design that we thought would work the best. This has changed how we work together and how we compete.

Our STEM role model is our coach. She picked us to be on a team even though we are different ages and genders. We weren't friends before we joined our teams and she has made all of our teams very inclusive by accepting anyone who would like to join our club. She inspires us. Now we are friends because she decided to make our club inclusive to anyone who wants to join and put them on teams even though we didn't know each other, so through this whole experience we have made new friends that we work well together with. Joining this robotics team has been the best thing I have ever done and I have made such good friends throughout this journey.



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