

VEX IQ Team 4270C
The Crusaders
Saint Louis School, Honolulu, Hawaii

Everyone has goals, it does not matter what gender you are or your starting point. Hi, my name is Elias Gebauer. My experience in an all-boys school has been one to remember. Beforehand, I came from a co-ed and it took a bit to find my place. So I joined the Saint Louis Middle School robotics team and this is my second year on the team. I came from a low-income school with little to no robotics programs. So, I had little to no experience when it came to robotics. Eventually, I became more experienced in the robotics field because of the help and support of my peers. And now I am happy to announce that I am a builder and driver for 4270C. Each of these roles requires a specific mindset. Girls also can do this as well as if not better than boys. I think that girls meet the same criteria as boys do when it comes to anything. I think Girl Powered is a program that makes girls feel more involved. We live in a world where men are mean to girls. So this program will teach younger generations to accept all differences.

Hello, my name is Kasyn Amazaki and this is my second year on the Saint Louis Robotics program. I transferred from a co-ed elementary school with a robotics program which was where I first learned robotics. Over time, I worked and competed with the team. When doing so, some of these things were similar to my old team, but now just with all boys. Just seeing how both teams worked gave me a different perspective on Girl Powered. In my opinion, Girl Powered means, girls are just as capable as boys if not more. Girls and boys have different opinions. I would know girls from my old team did the same things we did on our team from programming to building. Just seeing how both teams work together, I can see that both of the teams can progress and learn. Teams with girls or without girls won't slow things down or change things in a big way. Girls can start just like boys and learn how to do the same things we do. Our team has learned many new lessons and skills from many experiences. Being on the team shows how determined each person is and how much they have learned from the team. Our team has learned a variety of skills in robotics like teamwork, critical thinking, and most importantly, friendship.

Diversity is another main part of Girl Powered. Our team had many different team members with different roles. The different diverse roles allow us to bring many different ideas and opinions to the team. This allows us to think deeper into how our designs would work and what goals we want for our designs. Who each of the members are shows how different and important they are to the team. All the different roles from building to programming allows us to work together and be a successful team. Everyone from the team come from different perspectives with different skills or knowledge of robotics. No matter what gender it is, they can still have the skills to participate and work with the team. Our team is stronger with many different people who have their own backgrounds and their own opinions.

In my opinion, girls could learn the same way we learned and be able to understand how things worked. This doesn't have to be all about robotics. This could be in sports or maybe engineering jobs too. Girls don't have any limitations or requirements to do the things they want. Someone who is a great example of Girl powered is our coach and mentor, Adria Fung - Ms. Fung. She is a role model to many including me and has taught us many new things along the way. She came from Sacred Hearts Academy, which is an all-girls school. She worked hard in robotics and did very well. She worked hard as an engineer. Ms. Fung is a great teacher, coach, and a great example to all. She showed me that girls can take action and work hard to do great things.

Both of us have only been on the Saint Louis Robotics team for only one full year. We have learned many things and created a better friendship with the team. Elias having no experience in robotics and myself having little experience changed during the year. Elias and I were improving and learning new skills along the way with help from the team and Ms. Fung. We both think that Girl powered is girls having no limit or requirement to do what they want, being capable of doing things that boys can. Just thinking about how we started and where we now show that girls can learn what robotics is and experience what it is like on a robotics team just like we did.