

We are team 17814F. We come from Weston, CT, and we're an all-girls team and are all in the same grade. Plus, we had known each other for a while before we all entered robotics. Robotics is a big part of our lives, and we love it. When we hear the words "girl-powered," we imagine a world where women take up a fair amount of the STEM field. The STEM field is currently mainly run by men. You can still find women, scientists, and engineers, but there are very few. So we hope, one day, we can change that.



Our team is rather diverse. You can find people of all nationalities here, but we don't discriminate. We've all known each other for at least two years or more. There may have been times where we've fought, but it's all a part of maintaining a strong friendship, which we have in our team.

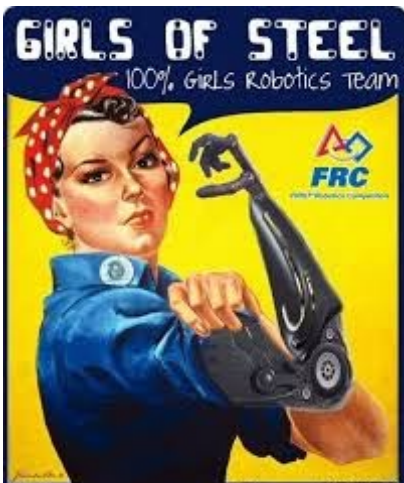
We pretty much have set rules here. Everyone helps with mostly everything, but some people have their main fields in our team. Everyone helps to build our robot. Deanna is our head builder. From the coding standpoint, we have to give credit to the other groups for

helping us at the start. Then after we discovered the VEX block code, we broke off and started coding on our own. Our leading coder is Angela since she knows how to use the software. Angela is also a side driver and the main notebook.

Ashley is the main driver. She has lots of experience driving and scored our first ever tower in Tower Takeover! Emma helps out with everything and doesn't have a set role. But she's good at her work and is a valuable asset to the team. Iman is a new person to the team. We all know her from classes and such and welcome her with open arms. We had one ex-member, a girl named Athena. We enjoyed her company while it lasted. She wasn't the best at everything, but she was a good friend and teammate. After her leave, Iman came and filled her space.

Perhaps our most significant achievement is making it to the Southern New England Regionals. We were so excited. The only reason we made it in is because of our driver's skill score of 6. Later at regionals, Ashley managed a skill score of 12 points, one of our best scores yet.

Diversity allowed us to realize that all we had was each other. At the time, we were all 6th graders, all new to robotics, and no guidance from others on the team. We started in Team B for a couple of weeks, but we were placed into a new group, team F. What surprised me was that there were more girls than boys joining robotics that year, and we hope that that trend



will continue for years. We managed to survive the year somehow. We knew from the start that we stood out from others as a very young, very naive, and a 100% girl-powered team. At the time, we were always the people that needed help, the people that got their drive code the day before our first tournament, the people that didn't even have a claw yet, the people that needed help with their auton. But we never needed to be entirely dependent on other teams. We became their equals, and they accepted that. Of course, we may not be as good and knowledgeable as the other teams, but we try our best.

Our robotics coach, Mrs. Kaplan, has always been a big inspiration to us. She's super supportive and just a great coach. Not all of us may seek a career in the STEM field, but thanks to her, we find our potentials, our skills, and memories, memories that will last a lifetime. She inspires us to push forward, and push forward we will.

We see stereotypes as a roadblock in people's minds. Because so many young girls have been pressured into liking the color pink and being pretty, it's hard to find a young girl that has a passion for the engineering field from the start. But with the right guidance, stereotypes can break away, and people can see that girls don't have to be those perfect little princesses they see in movies, TV shows, and storybooks. We are team 17814F of Weston Robotics. And we are proud to be a 100% girl powered team.

