

Why We Need Empowered Girls in Robotics Now

When we hear the words “girl power” we think of nurses and housewives etc. and not engineers, builders, or programmers. But in robotics, we can be so much more. It provides the opportunity to learn new life skills like teamwork and problem-solving. As young women in robotics, we can inspire younger children. Robotics can be challenging but if we stick together and persevere we will get the opportunity to learn the steps of being successful in your future self.

Although we have many STEM women role models like Dr. Katie Bouman, Reshma Saujani, and Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya. We need more women in STEM. Young girls get many stereotypes thrown at them like they have to have long hair, they have to be skinny, they shouldn't take jobs that make them think outside the box, etc. Our role model is our very own coach Ms. Keil. We are inspired by her because of her experience in the STEM fields. She also pushes us to work hard and to the best of our ability.

As a team, we think teamwork is very important. We believe it is better to work together than alone. Teamwork gives anyone good and strong working relationships. To have a great team all of the team members need to build each other up and help others gain strength to build a great group that can work smoothly together. When we all work together we can learn a lot! A few things we can learn are how a loss can affect everyone and how being a good sport is important. Everyone on the team needs to build each other up, not bring them down. Here are a few good things about teamwork. Teamwork improves productivity, working in teams can boost motivation, teamwork also helps people start taking healthy risks, also when we work together we learn faster. Teamwork is also a skill that we'll have to use in future jobs or careers even if it's outside the STEM fields.

When we are working in our team we don't always get along or agree, if there is a problem we have to talk it through and get everyone's perspective and opinion no matter their gender, before we can face the problem. Another reason working on a team that's inclusive to everyone is important because then we get every perspective and opinion. In our time we've learned to compromise and cooperate with our fellow teammates even if we don't always agree. When we listen to everyone's opinion it pushes us to take the extra step farther to try new things. Working by yourself doesn't get much done but working as a team gives you a boost up to get work done easier.

It's important to have girls and boys in VEX because they all add important and different perspectives. Girls should be able to have the same chance at learning as boys because as young women, we can offer so much more not only to the stem fields but in the world. Women make up about half the population if there weren't girls in robotics, or in the STEM fields, it would be up to men to solve problems related to STEM. By having girls in robotics and STEM there will be more people to solve the world's problems like finding the covid 19 vaccine. Girls will be more likely to bring up issues directly impacting them. For example, they will be concerned about topics like breast cancer. Biologically girls will offer different opinions and ideas than boys. There will be so much missing in the world of STEM if only men offer their opinion. It's not about getting the correct answer or wrong but is about the steps you and your team take and the time to achieve it.

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Robotics is for everyone, no matter the gender you identify with. When we listen to everyone's perspective we can accomplish anything. We as young women are so glad to have the opportunity to be a part of vex robotics, we've met so many inspiring people and we've gained skills that will help us in the future.

Credit:

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