

Girl Empowered Essay Challenge

Hearing the phrase, Girl Powered, makes me think of women working in positions that society has said aren't for them. In our robotics club there is a very small number of girls compared to boys, but that doesn't stop the girls here from working. In general, gender doesn't matter in our club, you just come in and work as a team member. Mr. Holmes, our robotics coach is happy that our club is diverse, he says that different backgrounds and perspectives bring more ideas to the table.



These are some of the 9623 members at our club paintball game earlier this year in January.

My team makes it so that everyone can work no matter who they are. One of our team captains is a girl who is the hardest worker I've seen during my time in this club. As long as you have a passion for robotics and a good work ethic you can join our team. This year we have a mix of a lot of different people. We have two seniors, three sophomores, one junior, and one freshman currently on our team.



My team members from left to right: Jimmy, Nigel, Dylan, Syniah (me), Oriana, Brandon, and Nick

Most of my team members like Oriana, Dylan, Nick, Jimmy, and Nigel have tried different roles on the team. Jimmy switches between building and coding for the team, and Nick is a builder who's learning how to code from Jimmy. Oriana does other roles besides being captain when needed, like building, online challenges, and going in notebook. Dylan switches between being notebook mainly and will also build, and Nigel is usually doing online challenges or building.

I think the fact that we all have different years or experience in robotics helps a lot. My members who are now seniors with more experience than me bring more information to the table. It's easier to do weighted objective tables because they've seen and worked with most of the options. The experience difference is also helpful because we can teach each other when we

don't know something, like how some of the new members don't know how to model or code, we can take the time and show them how to do it.

In terms of actual famous STEM role models I have none, I only have the people I've worked with at 9623 WARP Drive. People in my club who are big inspirations are my current team captain Oriana Perez and ex member Nathan Gillner. Oriana is genuinely the smartest person I know in the club, she works the hardest, watches out for other members, and is very quick thinking. She is probably the most trustworthy person in the club and is very caring even if she seems strict. Nathan, even though he graduated last year was so smart and such a hard worker, even if he did insane things like disassembling his robot the night before a competition and putting it back, he showed so much passion in robotics and was someone to look up too. He was trusted as leader of the entire club, and he in general was a voice of reason for at least me as a freshman. Oriana and Nathan honestly have really different personalities, but their dedication to robotics and care for their team is really similar. They both make me want to work harder and be as smart as they are. Neither of them care about who you are or where you come from, they see you as people with the same interests as them and to me, that is such a rare and powerful trait.



These are Oriana and Nathan, the first picture is Oriana working on the guide ramp for our robot this year, the second is Nathan during a competition last year, and the third is at our team paintball.