

Girl-Powered Robotics

Robotics and many STEM fields are predominantly male lead. When we hear the phrase girl-powered the first thing that comes to mind is how we can include females in lead roles where they are usually male dominant. Girl-powered is about empowering girls to have a more equal opportunity at being successful in fields such as robotics where we don't see as many women. It's important to have inclusivity in these types of workplaces and have more female power in the field. It is crucial to have more females involved that can inspire future generation leaders to follow the same path towards success.



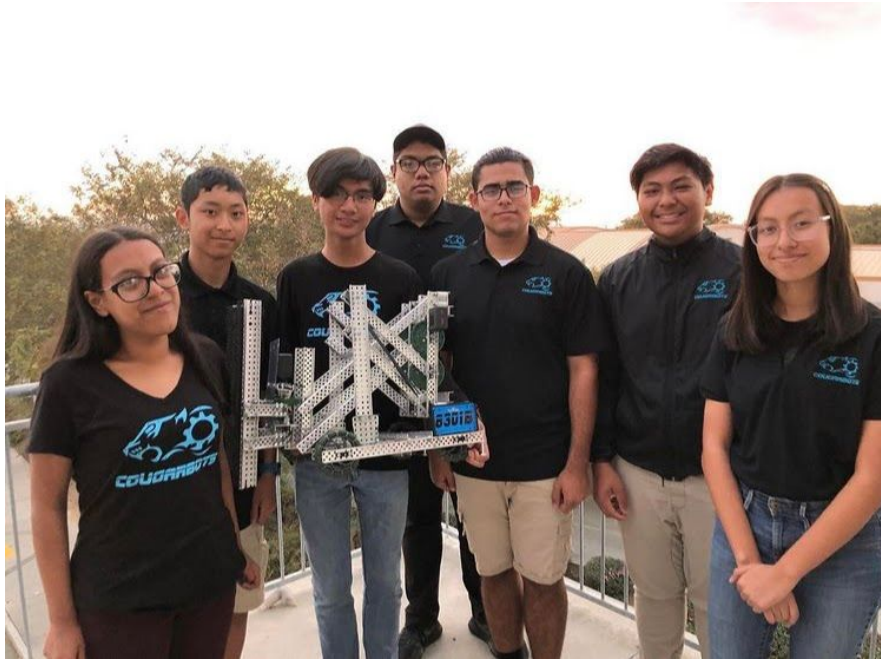
This first picture is the cougar bots girl-powered team from the 2018-2019 season. The team is integrated with all girls taking the lead in inspiring more females to join robotics. In the image, the team is holding a judges award that they won at a tournament for being an exemplary

team and overall excelling in all the fields. Since then we have not had another girl-powered team due to the lack of females in the class. It is super important to have females in the class to be able to be role models for other girls that are hesitant about joining robotics. I was actually encouraged to join robotics because they had an all girls team and was inspired by their work.

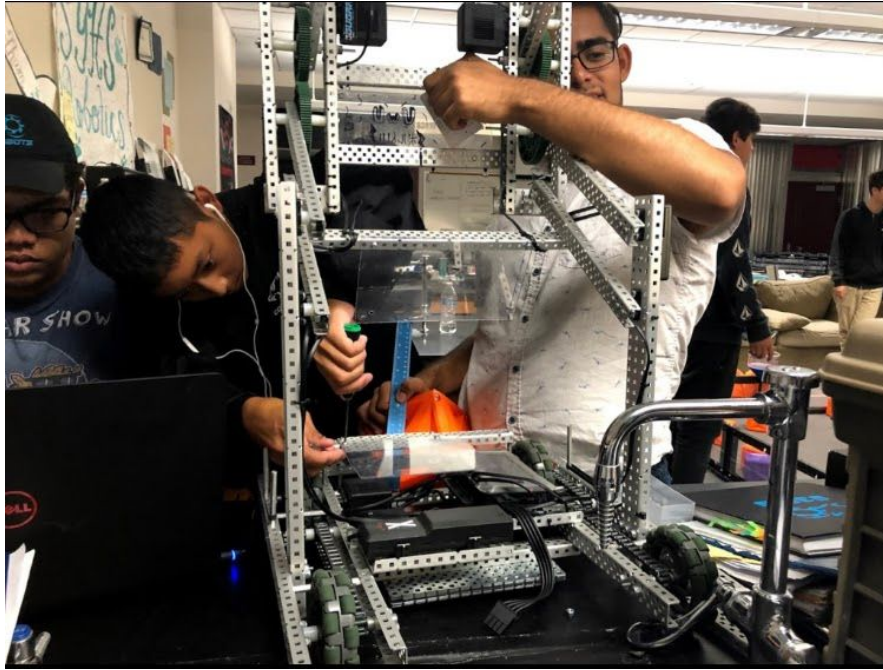


This second picture is the girls team at a girl-powered competition in Los Angeles. This was a great opportunity where they got to meet new people and make lasting connections with

other girls in robotics. They grow their skills in things such as interviews, communication, etc. They were able to meet other all girl teams and have an amazing experience. One of the team members exclaimed that it was very empowering to see so many only girl teams.



This third picture is from last season's team that had a previous team member of the girl-powered team. Most of the team members in the image are still in robotics. Although the team was mostly men, they helped the girls have more important roles than just being in the background. The previous team member from the girl-powered team (girl to the far left) kept her role of being the driver and the new team member (girl to the far right, me) had an all-around role having involvement in managing the notebook, building, and overlooking practice. Being the driver is a huge responsibility and a very important role. Competitions are all based on the driving and the strategies that they have. The team sees their success at competitions due to the driver we had. Most of the team members were new to robotics and relied heavily on the previous team member to guide us and secure victory. Both the driving and strategies were part of the work of us girl members and we were able to go to the state tournament.



This last image is of a few team members from last year working on our robot. This specific robot took us to the state championship where our driver, April, did an amazing job at taking us to the elimination rounds. We truly miss this class setting where we are able to communicate and learn team building skills. This year we haven't had the opportunity to work collaboratively as we would like to but we are doing an amazing job by transferring everything online. Our class still has few girls but we hope that we are able to inspire and encourage more females to join robotics and hopefully pursue a career in STEM.

Credits:

Entrant = Kasandra Guerrero

Registered Team Number = 8301

Title of Submission = Girl-Powered Robotics