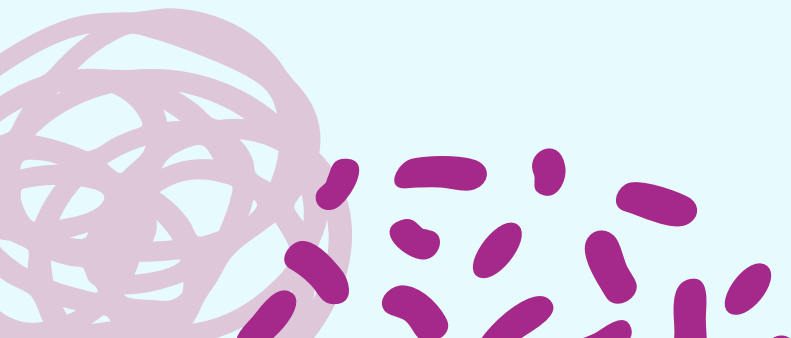


Welcome to Team 97101G's

girl ⚡ powered

ADVENTURE



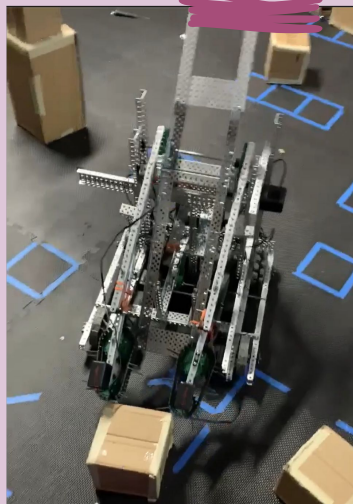
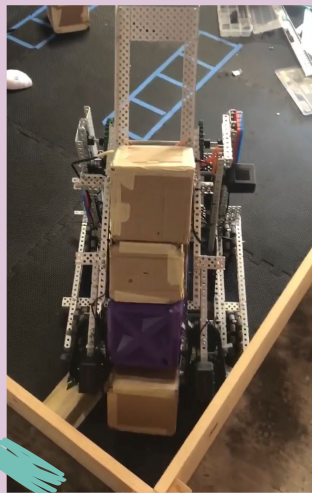
Hi, nice to meet you!

My name is Jade Wang, and I am currently a (struggling and extremely tired, yet somehow surviving) junior who attends American High School and one of the founding members of **Team 97101G** who will be walking you through my team's Girl Powered Essay. But before we get into that, let me introduce myself: outside of VEX robotics, I am a completely average high school girl who gets nervous before important tests, enjoys eating tasty foods, and has big dreams. Of course, these dreams have shifted and transformed throughout the years—when I was seven, I wanted to be like John F. Kennedy because of his charming charisma; these days, I aspire to be like Grace Hopper and Marie Curie due to their dedication to the STEM field and continuous perseverance, despite being discriminated against due to their gender. As I explore the wonderful world of robotics and the STEM field as a whole, the inspiration I have received from these talented women motivate me to continue on this tumultuous journey as a woman in a male-dominated field. So without further ado, let's begin our **Girl Powered adventure!**



Team 97101G's Team Manager and your guide on today's Girl Powered Adventure

girl ⚡ powered



In many robotics teams, the term “Girl Powered” is scorned upon and considered weak and less than something built by men. While some teams hide their female members and force them into quiet corners of submission, our team embraces our female identity as an all-girls team. Here at Team 97101G, every single member of our team is given the opportunity to contribute to the team, whether it is designing, building, programming, driving, strategizing, or even managing the team, there is something for everyone to do—and all of these processes are proudly “Girl Powered.”

Starting From Zero--The Origin Story

Our team was founded just a year ago by a small group of girls who were interested in robotics. While our school has had a FTC Robotics team for quite sometime now, that team is dominated by males, which is why we decided to start our own all-girls VEX team in order to provide more variety. Because we started from scratch in a public school, we struggled to gather funds and mentors--in fact, during our first season, we did not even have enough money to buy the entire Tower Takeover field, so we decided to be innovative and construct our own cardboard boxes and towers in order to test our robot and practice driving. We also requested the help of other more well-funded robotics and STEM enthusiasts who helped us 3D print other parts of the field that we could not construct out of cardboard. These accomplishments could not have been done without our team's varied skill sets and connections, which is something that we pride ourselves in.



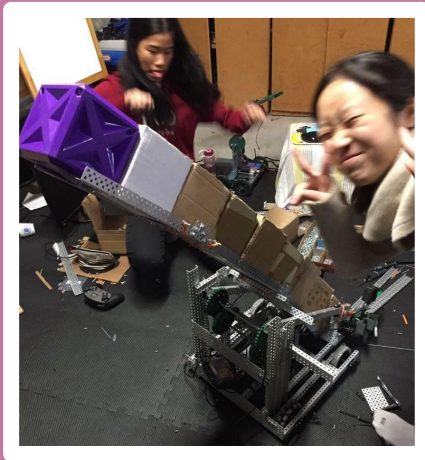
Cardboard
Tower Take-
over Cubes

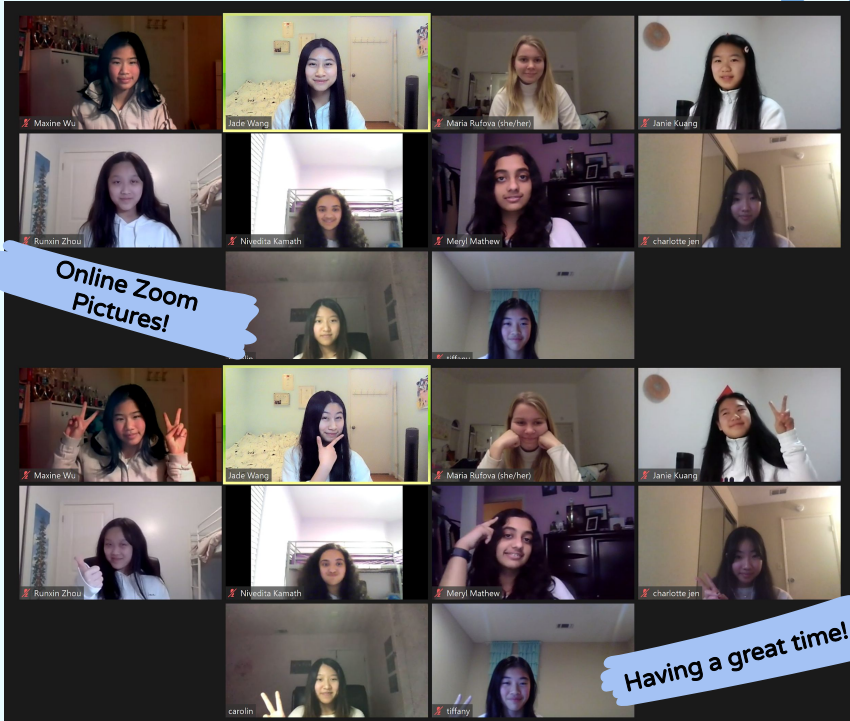
Chocolates
that we sold
to fundraise



Our Pledge to Inclusivity

Since its very first day, our team has followed its pledge to be open to all girls interested in learning about robotics. From the founding of the team, we created an application and tryout process to recruit members in order to have the fairest possible method of adding new members. Once our members are recruited, we make sure that everyone is comfortable with each other by having our first meeting be purely for team bonding. Last year, we all drank bubble tea together at a cafe near our school, while this year, we held a virtual first meeting where we played various games, such as Never Have I Ever and 21.





Diversity

As an all-girls team, some might consider us not “diverse;” however, we disagree with this statement, as our team is composed of girls of all ages, races, backgrounds, personalities, and interests. These differing characteristics allow us to all contribute to the team in different ways, allowing us to come up with new and innovative ways, not just in terms of building the robot, but also programming it, driving it, and even marketing the team. Here are the brilliant minds behind each of the different divisions in our team:

Build Team



Runxin Zhou

“I help in the innovation and build of our team’s robot. A big part of my work is to collaborate (and argue) with my teammates to arrive at the best possible build.”



Janie Kuang

“I help to build the robot and work with the executive team to manage all of American’s teams and fundraise.”



Carolin Pan

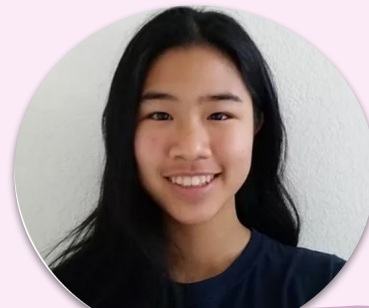
“I help design and build the robot. I also update the notebook to correspond with our latest modifications.”

Programming Team



Maria Rufova

“I program the robot for autonomous and driver control.”



Maxine Wu

“I program and test the robot’s autonomous and driver programs.”

Drive Team



Tiffany Chen

"I drive the robot during competitions."



Meryl Mathew

"I observe games and come up with strategies on the spot to help the driver during competitions."

Management and New Recruits



Jade Wang

"I manage team branding (ie. team website and social media)."



Charlotte Jen

"I'm currently learning about CAD and programming in VEX V5 text."



Nivedita Kamath

"I joined the VEX Robotics team this year as a builder/notebook organizer."



At our first ever
competition in Winters,
CA

Paving the Way

After our first season, we saw a good amount of growth in our team. At our very first competition, we placed in the bottom five percent, but by our third and final competition, we were in the top fifty percent. While this may not seem to be a very large success, this growth was momentous for our fledgling VEX Team, especially considering the fact that we started our team without any external funding or mentorship. In fact, our impressive accomplishments inspired another group of girls to start another VEX Team at our school midway through our first year.

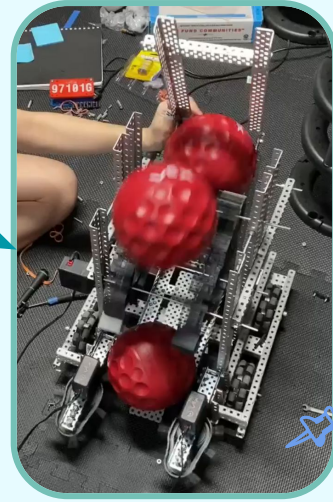
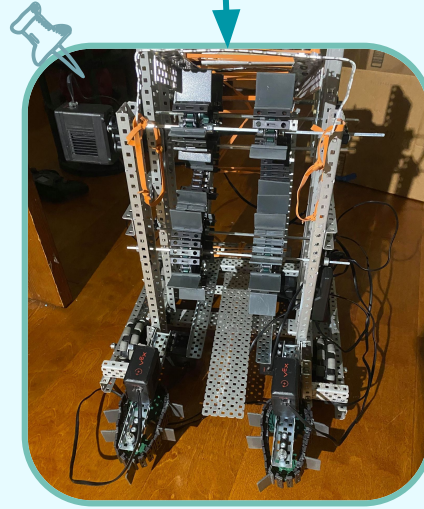


At our final 2019-2020
Season competition in
Ceres, CA

Looking to the Future

While last season may not have resulted in any major wins or accomplishments, this year, we are striving to become even better and even more competitive. With our year's worth of experience and hard work, we are confident that we can improve ourselves and reach newer, higher heights. Hope to see you at Worlds.

Snapshots
of this year's
Change Up
robot



Thank you!

from team 97101G

Credits:

Main Writer: Jade Wang Team **#97101G**

Other Entrants: Tiffany Chen, Charlotte Jen, Nivedita Kamath, Janie Kuang, Meryl Mathew, Carolin Pan, Maria Rufova, Maxine Wu, and Runxin Zhou