

## Our Determination

Throughout the years, girls have been underappreciated for their talents and overall skills. This thought that girls are not able to perform tasks that seem too hard for them has been going on forever. At some point, I even gave into this idea that I was not allowed to do what I loved because I'm a girl. However, after being surrounded by so many powerful girls I've come to realize how powerful girls really are. Why should we be told that we shouldn't do something we love when we are perfectly capable of doing these harder tasks? Girls are strong and just as talented as anyone else in VEX.

What does Girl Powered mean to me? To me, this phrase describes the determination and strength girls can have when it comes to what they love.

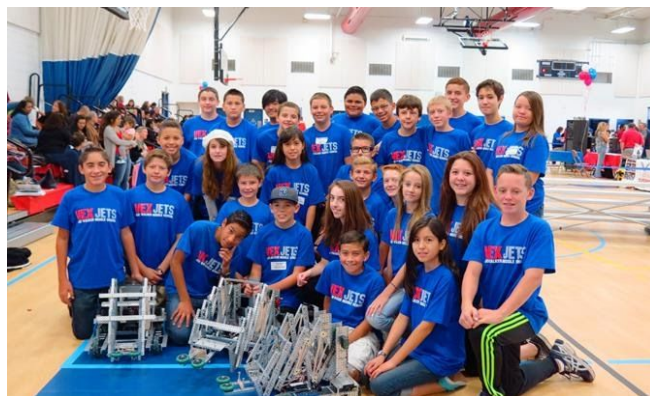
When it comes to my team, the VEX JETS, I believe that the other girls in our team can provide so many different points of views on tasks we have going on in our class. I admire the determination and differences of the other students in my team. Without this mix of both boys and girls, other ideas may not have been introduced. Diversity in gender and skills

is important when it comes to working in teams as they can contribute to the overall performance of the team. Everyone in our team plays a big part even if they may not be as skilled as other members.

Some tasks or jobs may even thrive better in an environment with more girls. Why should we waste our talents when we could prove our skills? For example, one of my close friends in our VEX team is talented in coding and she may have never figured this fact out if we hadn't decided to be part of this team. Our team may have not even had someone to write our engineering notebook if one of the girls in our team hadn't stepped up to fill that role. The girls in this team are determined to fulfill their role to the best of their ability, and the roles stretch from building, coding, and designing, to working on the engineering notebook or making strategies. People with different experiences and coming from different backgrounds could give our team more insight into building the robot/doing a project and tuning it to be most efficient during competitions.

My STEM role model is our Vex Robotics team's founder and teacher, Mr. Matthew Anderson. He emphasized that no matter our skill level, gender, age, or background, we could

join the team. Having experienced first-hand what it felt like to be pushed to the side in a team because of your gender, and having to sit on the side while others did the work, I was ecstatic to finally join a mature, equal team that allows everyone to have a turn. I was not surprised



when what I expected fit my reality, and possibly even exceeded my expectations. Mr. Anderson made sure that everyone in the team felt as if they had a place in the team and it definitely resonated for me.

To conclude, a Girl Powered Vex Robotics team is exactly what 4073 is to me. They strive to make this small, simple team the best it can be and make sure that every experience is lived to the fullest. The Vex Jets help to break stereotypes that girls have, and to let them try something new. With all of the new perspectives and diversity that this team has, we can certainly flourish and bring a whole new perspective to STEM as a whole. Let's have more girls in STEM for a change.



Credits:

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