

The Unfortunate Minority of Young Women in STEM; What Can be Done to get more Diversity in STEM fields?

Ava Wilstead, Brooklyn Gal, Campbell Cleveland, Deagon Sullivan, and Skylar Corella



#### Meet The Team



Ava Wilstead is one of the builders of the team, as well as in charge of the CAD program and design notebook.



Skylar Corella is a wonderful builder of the team.



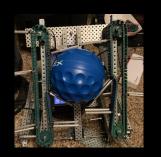
Brooklyn Gal is one the builders of the team and organizes robotics supplies beautifully.



Deagon Sullivan is also a builder of the team and aids Campbell in coding.



Campbell Cleveland is a fellow builder and is the programmer (an excellent one might I add). He came up with the current robot design.



Brfxxcexxmnpcccclllmmnprxvcl mnckssqlbb11116 (pronounced Albin),as the most helpful member , is the robot. As of November 24th, this is the current robotic design.

#### Switching Roles

There have been switches in roles, as we have learned each other's strengths and weaknesses. Skylar tried to do programming, but later realized that it was not suitable for him. Similar to Skylar, Brooklyn attempted the design notebook and had the same realization. It shows that not everyone is perfect and that each individual has their strengths and weaknesses. Working as a team brings those strengths together, which is what makes robotics so fun. There are ups and downs, but that is just life; not everything is always going to be great.



## Getting Involved

Brooklyn Gal was inspired to get involved in robotics because she loves playing games and building. "It just seemed like something new that I hadn't tried before" (Brooklyn)

Ava Wilstead has always been tinkering with things and had an interest in engineering. Robotics to her was a way to use that interest to build a robot and compete.

### Addressing the Issue

There are several other girls with the same interests as Brooklyn and Ava that have not been introduced to the STEM field. Just like how diversity in each team member's strengths and weaknesses can be beneficial, so can diversity in other aspects, such as gender, sexual orientation, or race. Our team (7983 S) decided to focus on the lack of females in the STEM field.



## Contribution to Solving this Issue

As fifteen and fourteen year olds in a pandemic, it is difficult to find a way to help solve the issue of not having enough women in the STEM field. Skylar proposed a STEM night, which seemed intimidating initially; primarily because our high school, Centennial High, has never had a STEM night. We are currently in the works of getting teachers running a STEM related course to participate and expect to have a STEM night sometime in the month of October, which is the month of females in STEM.

It will allow young girls to find STEM based courses that they find interest in. Robotics is a small portion of the STEM field, but it encompasses designing, art, and science. It will enlighten many girls that STEM does not just consist of robotics and engineering and that they have a potential in those other careers. Fundraising of this event is yet to be determined, but we are hopeful for the success of this project.

# Inspiration of this Project

The primary inspiration or role model of this was Mr. Smith, our robotics teacher. He has taught us to be inclusive and is incharge of the Women's Engineering Club. He has helped in several ways, such as making sure that we had enough gear shafts in the correct sizing and solve social issues. Mr. Smith does a lot for us and much more than what he is credited for.

This presentation was written by Ava Wilstead.

