

- **Title of submission:**

*Girl Powered: Embrace Your Own Identity*

- **Names of students who participated (using first names only is acceptable)**

- Aanya
- Rayna

- **Team number:** 8217A

- **Location of team:** Redmond Washington United States – 98053

**Description:**

“Embrace your own identity, I can’t fool my heart and be loved for who I am.”

**Credits:**

Motivating statements from Movie Mulan, Sing.

Wikipedia for Radia Perlman, Marie Curie, and Rosa Parks

Whenever I hear the phrase girl powered, I think it would be better to be called people-powered instead of being called out as girl-powered. "Mulan" has always inspired us with the quote that says "Embrace your own identity, I can't fool my heart and be loved for who I am." So, whether it is opening a business, starting their own company, or even just speaking to a big crowd about robotics, we can change the world by embracing our differences and learning to appreciate each other as individuals. For example, Rosa Parks did not give up her seat on a bus for a white man and went to jail. But even she worked with Martin Luther King Jr. and thousands of others to stage a boycott not by focusing on what divided them, but rather giving everyone a common focus and goal. My team is also being people powered by uniting under the umbrella of robotics.

Through robotics, we are able to learn from each other and unite. Both of us have a different viewpoint that helps the design and thought process of our group. We discuss and share our ideas to improve our robot and code. For instance, we observed that the robot was not moving smoothly, so we differentiated all our cases that could happen. One of the things we enjoyed is that each of us brought different ideas while designing and building the robot. It was fun learning experience to observe different perspectives and agreed to one design. We followed this process for everything whether it was designing, coding, and writing. Me and my teammate have different perspectives which make our group and robot to succeed.

Radia Perlman – The mother of the Internet - is my STEM role model because she was a xena, a strong and tough woman, and was determined to finish her goal of improving the internet. For example, she developed the algorithm behind the STP (Spanning Tree Protocol) which made today's internet possible. Her famous quote was about "picking the wrong battles" and she showed that by not focusing on whether girls are better or worse than boys. She just focused on her goal and did not give up. Marie Curie - the mother of radium She is another one of our STEM role models. She is the first woman to win two Nobel Prizes and discovered radium. She did not let people damage her growth mindset. Both role models went through rough times like people saying, "you can't do this" - but they didn't let themselves get caught in traps about whether or not they are good enough or whether women are equal to men.

Our team tries several roles such as coding and programming. Others try to see any faults in the structure. We learn different perspectives when we try different things and how the robot is working and moving. We think and learn more when we share our thinking. We all share the equal responsibility of designing, building, coding, and driving the robot. We try to do everything as a team, so everyone knows what is happening in the team, and so that everyone is included.

Everyone shares their own perspectives and ideas to elaborate our thinking and learning. We also talk about why they think that way. For example, the movie Sing states, "Everybody needs a chance." We can then improve, and nobody must feel judged. Our time in VEX robotics has shown how we can become people-powered and embrace the variety that each person brings to the team. This way not only has VEX robotics become one of our favorite activities, but it's also shown us how we can work together without judgment. We don't need to try so hard to fit in when we are born to be different.