

VRC Girl Powered Online Challenge

**Girl Power: Growing, Learning, and Connecting
to build a strong future in Robotics**

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The title of our submission “Girl Power: Growing, Learning, and Connecting to build a strong future in Robotics” is a cumulation of our experience in robotics over the last 5 years. We are excited for this season when we all come together on one team!

When hearing “Girl Powered”, we immediately think of all the girls that strongly fight to be involved in the outside of the norm fields such as robotics. Being girl powered is working twice as hard in an environment in which there are very few girls. This is reflected in our team's approach to robotics because we were girls trying to keep up in a boys world. We had to work extra hard in learning what we have. Being “Girl Powered” also gives us a different perspective and view of the robotics world and how we go about doing things.

Our team takes the initiative to create a more inclusive environment by looking at each individual team member's experience and accomplishments. This year our team is comprised of two girls and one boy making it “Girl Powered”. The team was formed in the community and not in a school. Thus, our team is made up of 3 members who love robotics and bring their unique experience and talents to the team. Each member has been part of the same middle school robotics program but this year, we united to make our team.

Every member of our team tries various roles on the team. As a team, we believe it is best to try to learn everything to be well rounded. Only after you have fully learned all aspects of each part of the engineering design process and successfully built a robot can you find the things that each team member is good at and will help the overall team the most. We have learned from doing various roles what we are truly good at, what we love doing, and what is the most helpful for us to be doing. We have also learned that doing this helps to find the things we are naturally good at.

Diversity of perspective is a big thing when it comes to the overall robotics process. Whether it's the robot design, team chemistry, or the ability to succeed with different perspectives, it allows you to see many angles when assessing problems or challenges. Each person may have a different vision for the robot design and together those ideas can become one. Because of differing views of each team member, each member is able to give different solutions. When talking about team chemistry, these diversities can help unify and place teams together like a puzzle. In which an area one member may be lacking, another can make up for it. The ability to succeed is something totally different because everyone has a different version of success and different ways to succeed.

Our STEM role model is Megan Miles from team 10703Z. Like us, Megan was a part of a community team. This past robotics season, she competed on her own. Megan has been very successful in VEX Robotics as a “girl powered” community team. She inspires us to do the same. We have both had to teach ourselves how to do various roles and tasks for robotics. Since Megan graduated after the last season, she has shared with us tips and techniques to improve our programming and interview skills.

Hope Robotics is proud to be a “GIRL POWERED” robotics team. We have come together in our community and brought our own unique talents to the team. We look forward to attending VEX Worlds competition in Dallas 2022!



