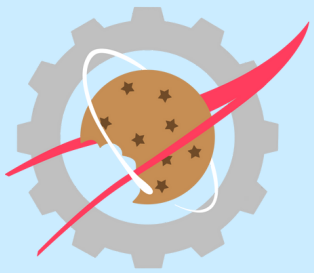




TIPPING THE POINT - GIVING EVERY GIRL AN OPPORTUNITY



1868T

Bay Area,
California

Members: Adhya, Anh,
Anjali, Emma, Neha, Trisha

"Girl Powered means paving a path for new generations of women in STEM" --Anjali Batta

VEX

"Our team represents girl-powered because we are all leaders and making a difference in STEM" --
Adhya Sarin

It's important to have diversity in any field, and the STEM field has a disparity in the number of women in the field compared to men. Girl-Powered means coming together to address that disparity by showing that women are just as capable of being in the field as men, thus encouraging women to enter the field -- Anh Le

**WHAT DOES
THE TERM
"GIRL
POWERED"
MEAN TO YOU?**

Women are not yet fully accepted into the tech world because it's a world run and made for men. However, our power comes from our ability to raise each other up in a field that doesn't accept us yet so that one day, it will
--Emma Cao

STEM

LEADERSHIP & HOW DOES IT AFFECT US?

We allow every girl to run for a leadership position. This allows for girls learn responsibility, work in a team, and developing resilience. These skills will all be needed in the future, when we pursue a career in STEM.



"It helps with taking initiative and helping to facilitate collaboration in a team"
-Anh

"I view it as a way to build confidence and have the courage to make decisions that will best benefit everybody"
-Emma

TEAM

"It gives us an understanding of how to take charge and shows us that leadership is important to work together as a team"
-Adhya

MEET THE TEAM



HOW OUR TEAM STARTED

Space Cookies started out as a FRC (First Robotics) team. However, only girls in high school were allowed to join. Wanting to expand the team's reach to middle school students as well, Wendy Holforty, our NASA sponsor, created a VEX team. This allowed students as young as 6th grade join the team! One of our team's youngest members, 6th grader Anjali, says, "I think that being a younger girl on the team provides a chance for me to learn. From the guidance of older members on the team, I can master the fundamental skills of VEX Robotics. I strive to eventually become the older member, passing on what I've learned to further generations of Space Cookies." Space Cookies VEX was made for this exact purpose: to teach girls of all ages robotics and to have them grow up to become leaders.



Anh Le

Hi! My name is Anh and I'm a freshman at Gunn High School in Palo Alto, CA. I'm a hands-on learner and like problem-solving. Besides robotics, I'm also in my school's Model UN club, and in my free time, I like doing a variety of things such as reading and art. I also own a pet bird named Mango!

Emma Cao

Hi, I'm Emma! I'm a sophomore at Gunn High School, which is in Palo Alto, California. I love coding and solving problems using creative solutions. Additionally, I run with my school's cross country team, I've been drawing for over 8 years, and I enjoy playing games in my free time.



Trisha Liu

I'm Trisha and I'm a 9th grader at Homestead High School in Cupertino, California. I'm part of my school's mock trial team and I enjoy public speaking. I also enjoy music and play the clarinet in CYS Wind Symphony. In addition to orchestral music, I have also been a part of Crystal Choir for over 7 years.

Adhya Sarin

Hi! I'm Adhya and I'm an 8th grader at Pinewood Upper Campus in Los Altos, California. I love to build and make things and express what I am passionate about. I also am a part of a debate club at my school and Girl Scouts. I have done my Bronze award and am working on my Silver. I enjoy art and singing and reading and writing. I love animals and hope to be a veterinarian one day!

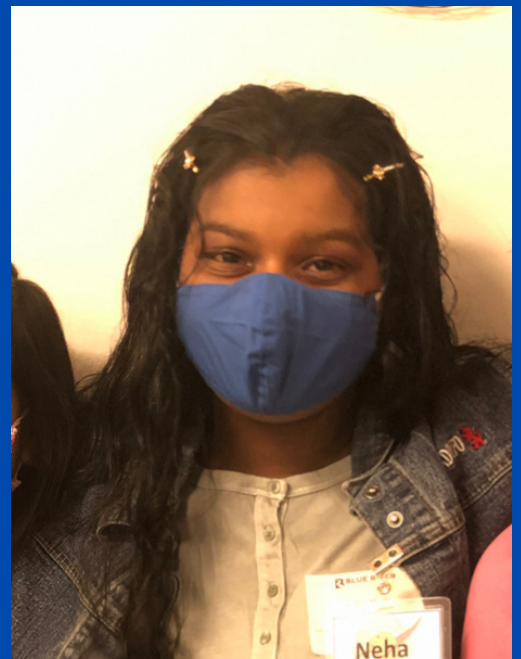


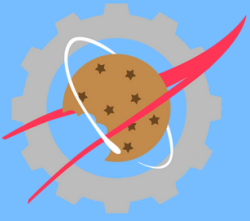
Anjali Batta

I'm Anjali Batta, a 6th grader at Challenger School in San Jose, California. I'm an avid fan of historical fiction novels. I also take part in my school's theater department. I have a pet cat named Minerva!

Neha Shaik

Hello! My name is Neha and I'm a homeschooled 7th grader (for now). I'm a quick learner, partially because I'm an ardent fan of learning anything and everything! I love reading about anything, but especially about places and cultures. I also enjoy swimming, which I haven't been able to do recently because of the pandemic.





PROS OF AN ALL GIRLS TEAM



We want to make sure everyone's idea is accepted and that girls have a chance to share their opinions. It's easier for boys to gain leadership positions and have girl's opinions ignored. On an all-girls team, everyone's voice is heard and all girls have an opportunity to gain leadership experience. In addition to team-wide leadership roles, we also have sub-team leadership roles!

Our sub-team captains, Trisha and Anh, both have two years of experience with the team and lead the newer girls in the building process. The new members of our team can also sign up for some leadership roles! Emma is our team's programming captain, as she has many years of experience with coding. Neha is our budgeting captain, and Anjali is our scouting captain! With every member on our team having a leadership position, everyone is able to gain not only engineering skills but also leadership skills.



GETTING MORE GIRLS INVOLVED



Over the summer, we had a series of workshops. These workshops were online and free of charge, giving an opportunity to girls throughout the Bay Area. With over 50 participants, we educated girls on three main topics: design, mechanics, and programming. By sharing our experience with other girls, we inspire new girls to try out engineering, and maybe even become part of our team! One of our new members this year, Adhya, says "I really liked the workshops and I think they inspire girls to pursue STEM because they are interactive and really interesting." Our team takes initiative to create a more inclusive environment by giving everyone an opportunity to learn more about robotics before we recruit new members.

Girl⚡Powered

THERE ARE NO WRONG ANSWERS IN BRAINSTORMING

Our team has a saying: "there are no wrong answers in brainstorming". By respecting every idea, we team members can freely express their opinions without being put down.



Original ideas serve as "launchpads" for better ones. In the brainstorming process, everyone shares their thoughts on a topic. Some seem strange at first, but they help us reach a better conclusion.

INCLUSIVITY

As a part of Girl Scouts Northern California, our team accepts not only girls from any racial demographic, but also non-binary people!

We welcome girls from underserved communities as well as POC and LGBTQ+.

To encourage anyone to join, we allow anyone to sign up for our workshops for FREE. They are hosted online due to the pandemic, and as long as you have internet access you are welcome to join!

This allows our team to have diverse opinions and varying points of view.



STEM ROLE MODEL



GRACE HOPPER

Grace Hopper was born in 1906 and graduated from Vassar College. Hopper was a mathematician, military leader, and a computer programmer, known as the "Queen of Code". She used her programming in World War II to build one of the first computers, Mark I. She then continued working on computers Mark II and Mark III. She retired from the Navy in 1986 and passed away in 1992. She continues to inspire people, especially young women, to pursue a career in STEM. She is our role model because in a field mostly dominated by men, she shows us that women can take charge and lead as well!

"I think the ultimate goal of Space Cookies, is to let as many girls as possible experience the different aspects of STEM, and hopefully get them inspired to pursue a career in STEM in the future"

-- Trisha Liu

"To me it's to allow girls to explore the world of STEM and robotics. It is also to help them interests and allow them to step into a space that they've been marginalized in"

-- Emma Cao

"The ultimate goal of Space Cookies is to foster an environment where we address the disparity of women in STEM by showing more women that STEM is an option open to them and allowing them to explore it and grow to love it."

-- Anh Le

**ULTIMATE
GOAL**