

Girl Powered Challenge

Team Number: 38489A

School: Thomas Edison Energy Smart School

Location: Somerset, New Jersey



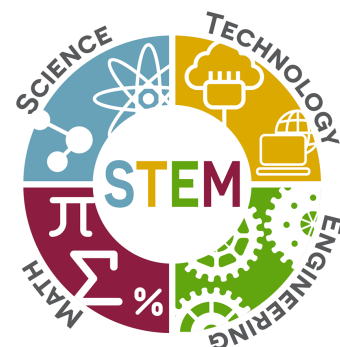
Ever since this world came into existence, men have carried more power than women. Women were often busy raising their families at home. They weren't given the right to vote until 1920 when the U.S. Congress stated "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Women

spoke up for their rights, and when a woman speaks, the crowd goes silent. Though a man might have greater strength, that is no match for the intelligence of a woman. Women have so much potential, but at the same time, they have many responsibilities. When a girl is given a chance nothing can stop her from reaching her goal. Girls are often siloed in a shell and afraid to bring out



their voices. That's why they must be given an opportunity, which will make them soar into the sky. When I hear the word girl power I think of a girl who is scared, but then is given the power to make her flourish. Girl power is the confidence, assertiveness, and empowerment among young women. Girl power allows girls to step up and take charge. My name is Lasya

Voonna (team lead), and in our team's (Lasya Voonna, Arushi Wadhivkar, Isha Chaudhary) approach to robotics, we encourage girl power and want to create an environment where girls can take lead in activities. I took initiative to create a group with a diverse group of students with different





personalities and interests. Everyone in our team has different capabilities and when we put all of that together we get a team with great potential. I believe that a team with a diverse group of students creates a team that is strong in every way. One person in our team named Isha is very creative and loves art, another teammate named Arushi is a great driver, and then I, the team leader and a skilled builder. This way everyone has a job unlike when people have similar interests they might fight over their positions. I encourage my team members to also try various roles in the team so they can step out of their comfort zone and try new things. Robotics is not only about everyone having their own job but also trying other things so you can learn more. When a student tries a new role they might like it and do more of it. Sometimes when you step out of your comfort zone you will learn new things you don't know about instead of just working on something you do know. I also think that diversity of perspective changes our robot design, team chemistry, and our ability to succeed. Furthermore, there will be a variety of roles that will create a well-organized team. When there are different perspectives the teammates will know about different ideas and incorporate that into their robot design and engineering notebook. My STEM role model is Mae Jemison. She inspired me to work hard to achieve my goals no matter what comes in my way. In 1992, Jemison became the first African American to travel in space. In her childhood, she faced racial discrimination as she was the only African American in her class. Though she went through so many troubles she continued to work hard and eventually became an astronaut and traveled space. She inspires me to have a more inclusive team filled with different kinds of people. Forming a group with people of different races, gender, and personalities will open up a variety of ideas and perspectives. People must have thought that Jemison didn't have the

potential to succeed, but she became the first African American woman to travel in space. She was given a chance to go to a white school and she more than proved herself. Everyone has the capability to succeed, a chance is all they need.

References

- https://constitution.congress.gov/searchessayfacet/Elections_and_Voting_Rights/#:~:text=Nineteenth%20Amendment%3A%20The%20right%20of,State%20on%20account%20of%20sex.
- <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mae-jemison>