

MISS EINSTEIN 3323A

GIRL POWERED

Elena Carli and Olivia Reed



We are Miss Einstein, an all-girls Robotics team. Because it is our goal to represent all girls interested in science and robotics, we incorporate girl power into our team dynamic as well as our personal life. Olivia and I hope that by working together, we can change people's ideas about STEM, and show that it is not only a boy's game. We want to inspire girls all across the world to join a team and show the world that we are smart, powerful, and determined females who can accomplish anything we set our minds to.

We have been a team since we were in fifth grade, and this is our 3rd year doing VEX. It has been such an incredible experience for us, and we have learned so much. Ever since we were in elementary school, we have been interested in STEM. I (Olivia) remember when I was in 4th grade, and I was watching my brother at the VEX World Championships. I went around to all of the teams to collect wristbands, and I remember wondering why I only saw 1 all girl team. That was the moment that I decided to get involved. I really wanted to leave my mark in the VEX community, and I was going to stop at nothing to do this.

When choosing our team name, we chose **Miss Einstein**. Aside from the fact that it sounded cool, as we had no idea the significance it would later have on us. In early 2021, a foundation from Brazil named “Nobel for Mileva” reached out to us and said they wanted to collaborate. While we didn't know much about their foundation at the time, we decided to meet with them. They explained their goal, which is to spread recognition for Mileva Meric, Albert Einstein's first wife. AKA the original “Miss Einstein.” They educated us on her history, and we learned that Mileva heavily assisted Albert in a lot of his most famous and important studies and theories. This program shared her story, and continues to inform people about her today (Instagram #nobelformileva). We soon decided to represent their foundation, giving a whole new meaning to our team name. With their picture being Mileva mimicking the famous photo of Albert sticking his tongue out, we changed our shirts to represent this. We want all the girls in our community, and the world to know that they are worth it, and they can accomplish anything that they put their mind to.



After hearing the phrase “girl power” we both immediately think of our moms. Both of our moms are our heroes in their own ways. My mom (Elena) works at a cancer hospital, and is not a doctor but still helps save lives. She was an Engineering major at University of Michigan and she is super smart. She inspires me to try my best so I can one day be successful and make a difference like her. She taught me that girls can do anything guys can do, and more! My mom (Olivia) owns a Mathnasium Learning Center, and that might not immediately sound very “girl powered”, but she has taught me that if I set my mind to something, I will accomplish it. She has over 90 students who she looks after and helps them become better at math. A lot of her students come in afraid of math but my mom helps them realize that they can do it. She has taught me never to back down from something that I am afraid of, to never give up, and to not let people’s expectations of me be my limit.

This reflects in our approach to robotics, because we use all of these skills to have a successful, and competitive team. We use the skill of giving 100% every day, and trying our very best. We know that if we put our minds’ to something, we **will** accomplish it.

As a team, it is our job to make sure all are given an equal opportunity for everything. Our team dynamic relies on how open we are with our ideas and opinions. One of our team mottos is "There's no bad question". We take turns driving, building, and coding. Our biggest goal with robotics is learning. We strive to come away from our VEX experience with problem solving skills. We will also work together on the same thing to get it done more efficiently, so most times we're both building, or both coding, etc. But no matter what, we make sure both of us get equal opportunities.

Our VEX inspiration, and mentor is Hailey Brooks. She is incredibly inspirational to us, and she has helped us a lot in our development of our team. She showed us that it doesn't matter if you are a woman, or if you are younger, that we can still make a difference. Our dream is to one day make it Worlds, just like Hailey did.

Girl powered, and VEX in general has changed our lives, and showed us that we can, and will make a difference with our lives, and the lives of others. We can't wait to give more to our VEX community, and hopefully inspire more girls to follow their passions.

Here is a video of us doing a girl powered documentary on Nickelodeon, to inspire girls to join VEX.

 Meet Roboticists Olivia & Elena! | Extraordinary Me | Nickelodeon UK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So-IAWt359Y>