

Girl-Powered: Friendship and Open-mindedness - 2414X

Our team so far has gathered quite a pact, we communicate well and have grown to experience each other's perspectives at different levels. When reflecting the phrase "Girl-Powered" upon us, we think more of being accepting towards everyone. This year, we have gone to grow more diversity in our teams and so on to other stations in STEM. Through several branches of diversity such as racial background, sexuality, and gender-identity.

Although the phrase "Girl-Powered" could be majorly seen as gender-sided, our interpretation is how it also empowers other people too when opening the opportunity to empower those who identify as women as well. Creating further growth in our community, which then would lead to greater chances of friendship.

You would be surprised how several people with diverse interests, opinions, and experiences in STEM can still be the greatest partners. Our team may look like a whole splatter of colors, but together we manufacture a harmonic rainbow.

We try to improve this in our environment by trying to make first-impressions or appearances not taken to account. An old tree may seem to be rotten but may also hold the sweetest fruit. We even go as far as to bring STEM into more of our conversations with others, to see who could be interested. Also, sometimes we like to add some comedic flare, it helps lighten the mood and bring a smile to everyone. STEM isn't about stereotypes nor uncomfortable atmospheres, it's about teamwork, accomplishments, and fun.



Each member of our team tries various roles, outside of VEX, some do programming, designing, practicing the elements, working within mechanical tasks, dealing with electrical projects, and strategic objectives. Those who try programming learn how to connect code in order to create a certain movement on a robot, it's always fascinating to see how one single command of code can cause something to take charge. Designers get educated to use their way of creative thinking to further the needs and ideas to create a successful robot. Practicing elements let you use materials to your exposure to make extra additions to the project. Mechanical activities let you be more well-known for cutting metal safely and also crafting some structures. Electrical operations bring you to be professional towards wires and circuits. Lastly, strategic tactics provide leaders who can guide the team to victory.

The diversity in our program would have an impact on the designs of our robotic creations planned, specifically to how most of us come from and develop different qualities of characteristics. This results in how each of us views strategies, certain scenarios, and have gained individual experience. For example, one teammate would consider adding features based on how they've seen previous designs that they have participated in, while another teammate would suggest a different feature not further thought about by the first teammate because of his involvement in previous other structures.

Our role model has been Katherine Johnson, a woman who has affected the growth of the space program. Recently in our STEM classes, we've seen the extraordinary movie, "Hidden Figures." Which speaks on the topic of POC women, specifically black women who were not recognized for their contributions to NASA for several events until now. We see her as an inspiration to our goals in VEX and far out in the world of Robotics to the Solar System of STEM. In our group, we've become more openly accepting of anyone in this program. We have noticed this in our last VEX competition that happened in December 2021. As we sat down and looked around at the other friendly competitors, it was clear that we had shown the most diversity. This is even being seen by judges and spoken about by staff, following us being granted the Judges award.

