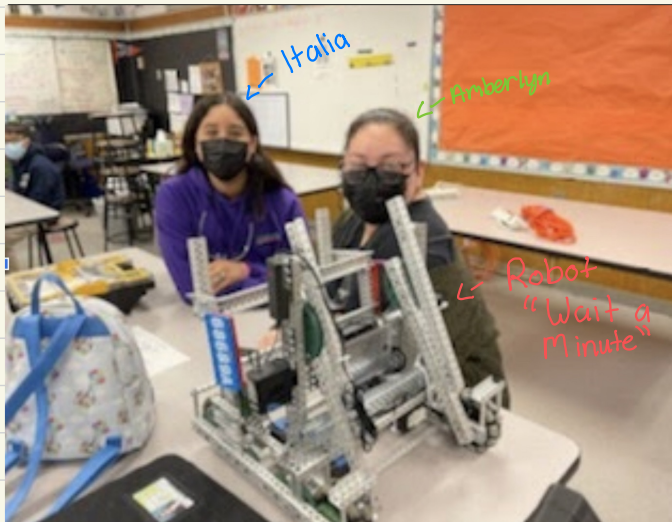


Us as woman

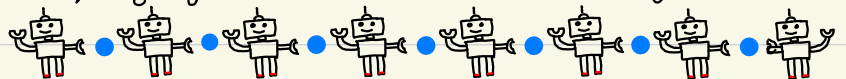
Written by

Italia Cabrera and Amberlyn Ibanez
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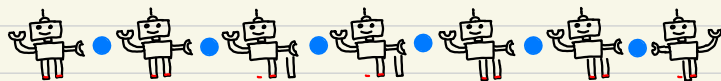
Our first competition

The fact is, women are not seen for who they are. The reputation set for women is not one that shows the true ambition and strength of women. Men are always seen, accepted, respected, etc., at all times without hesitation and without the need to truly prove themselves. Men are always seen as the protector, taking on roles like a firefighter or police officer. However, when a woman takes a role like a protector, she is laughed and scoffed at until she shows she is truly worthy, and even then, things do not go as planned. Now girl power in robotics. October twenty-third of twenty-twenty one our team's first competition. Amberlyn and Italia, only a girl team of two. Of course Amberlyn's first



thoughts were, "Where is everyone?" "We are going to crush this competition!" "Their robot looks

We got this!" But also "Where are the girl teams?" And "There is one of them." Few that we saw. Robotics is a "dominated" program. So we weren't that surprised. Girl power in robotics is about supporting each other. When our teammates, opponents. Women feel like they will be judged if they join. A woman can walk down the street and get catcalled, and she stands up for herself. That's girl power. But when another woman hears this and also stands up for the other woman. That's also girl power. It's the fact that both women were confident enough to stand up for others and themselves. Girl power is about standing up for yourself and for the surrounding woman. About women leading their path without the fear of being judged by society. We are strong. We are brave. We are powerful. We have and can anything we want. Girl power can mean so many things. It can mean the power that we have against boys as



being women. As girls on this field that is mainly ruled by boys there are very few girls on this. I have also heard this once, "girls can do anything a boy can and if anything even better." - Emma Watson. We as women can do anything we want to as long as we have a positive mind set. When we are working on a field that has boys on the field it is not as challenging. What girl power can mean to us is being a someone from a different gender on the same plain field.



First competition

Waiting in the line for inspection

Claw not working but had a pickup

Us as woman

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Partnered with another team from Holland

Wheel on right side in the front broke

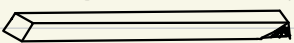


At Holland middle school, after Italia and Amberlyn agree or argue over who is going to be driving first on our practice matches or driving for skills. We started it, you or driving for skills. We started it, you that fun stuff. But before, during and ending, we tell each other something like "We did it." Or "Good try" "You got better." "We got this, okay?" "There is always next time." One of our personal favorites...

Thun!

Thun!

"THE AXLE CAME OUT!"



Thun!

Thun!



With the exception of the last one, you can see we encourage each other, even if we run out of time or lose. Girl power. During brunch and lunch, Amberlyn invites some of her friends over into the robotics room. They have seen what we do. Like our matches, autonomous, skills, and the notebook. Laileine is the most involved. She helps Amberlyn with timers for the matches and minor fixes. Classes that involved parts of robotics like STEM, the majority of the classmate are 7th or 6th graders. Leaving most of them a chance to join robotics the following year Amberlyn talks To them about the program and the thrill and fun of it. Up to showing them the competition videos too



During December, most of the students would be

crowned in the hallways because of the rain. So kids would watch us playing some matches against each other. Got a little loud in the room, but that's alright. The teachers too! Some teachers to see what we are up to and how things are coming along.

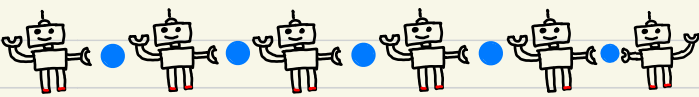


Our third competition, playing Connect-4 before Drivers meeting

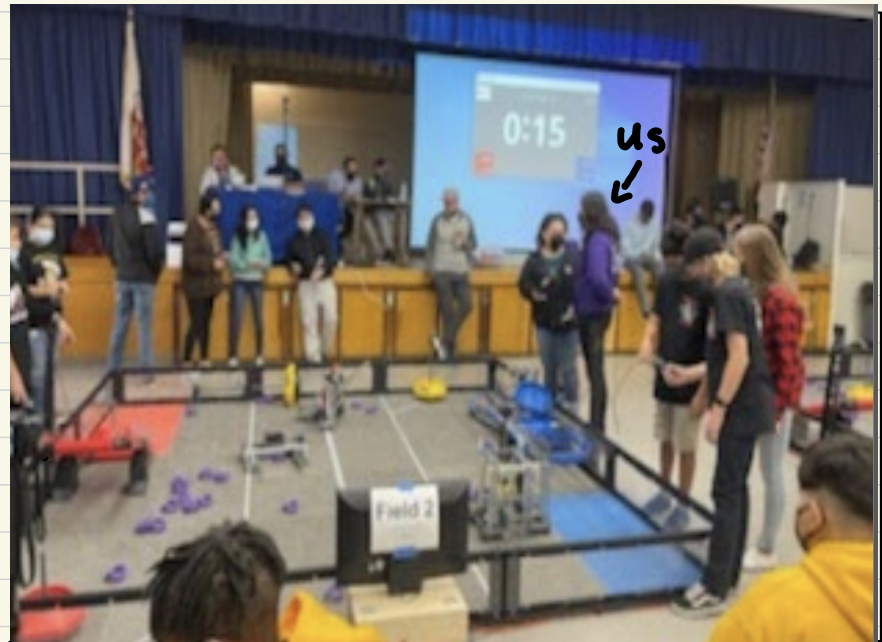
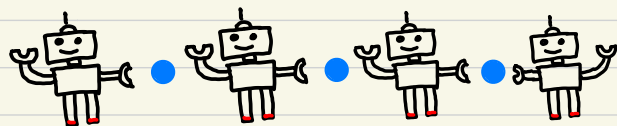
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So, since our team consists of only Italia and Amberlyn, the two must take on multiple roles for the team. The roles of drivers, drive coaches, and link are played by both Amberlyn and Italia



Amberlyn is the programmer for the team; however, when Italia is driving, Amberlyn is link and drive coach. I (Amberlyn) learned to how to be both link and drive coach simultaneously during the matches. Beforehand I would check the time on the computer but would get distracted, so I ended up counting in my head or with my fingers behind my back, telling her the time. I would still be checking on the the time was correct. But it was loads more easier for me.



Our 2nd competition. Our alliance's robot wasn't working. *But we won!*

As of our team there are some challenges in building. Sometimes things would go wrong and we don't know how to fix it, but we have our administrator to help or sometime we figure it ourselves. It's always a challenge but we always get through it. One example happened recently our claw wasn't working. We first check the promagram, just to see if it would be a simple fix. However, nothing was wrong. So once again, we checked if there was something was wrong with the motor. Sure enough, the motor was clicking. We ended up changing the motor. But even then, we had trouble pushing the axel through, we tried pushing the axle with our nails, screwdriver, and a small pole. However the axle went through when we were tired and ready to go home, by a simple twist of the motor. I (Amberlyn) learned to not give up, even when you want to throw yourself on the floor.

As I (Italia), I am a builder, link, drive coach, and driver. That might look like a lot but its all for a learning experience. As being one of the drivers on the field there are challenges. One of the challenges for me are starting to get panicked on the field. When I am on the field, I have a feeling like there is nothing that I can't do on the field. Starting to panic because I feel the people around the field are judging But then I remember, this can be our chance to show that as women we can do anything.

Us as woman

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First People around will always have a different point of view on something. From it being an opinion to just seeing the object in a different place. Someone can see a portrait and think "The sky looks so dull."
Drivers
Meeting However you think differently saying "The sky looks so bright." It your perspective.



An example of different points of view, Italia was driving for skills at Holland. After a couple seconds of the match starting, the pickup wasn't working. The pickup wouldn't drop the mobile goal. We stop the match, and took our robot back to the table. Another teammate of ours kept saying that the problem was the pickup wasn't going down all the way. Italia and myself knew that wasn't the problem. See a couple times earlier, the same problem would occur. So we would move the stand-off forward, to the right, to the left, backward to see how the mobile goal would fit. Afterwards, we fixed the problem and told that teammate what the problem, they understood after.



So as you can see from the story. From

Italia and my prospective, we already knew what the problem was and to fix it. Our other teammates wasn't used to our robot and the problems along with it. The match after Italia got her points. However if the next time, the problem arises, it's definitely a possibility.

Partnered with another Holland team. We won this match



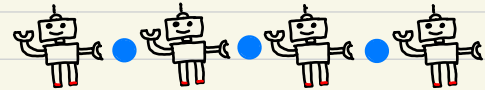
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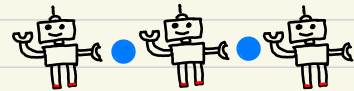
Our Stem role model can be many people. A role model is someone we admire, someone we look up to. Our STEM role model is Mr. Lau. He is our robotics instructor and Amberlyn science teachers. Italia has known Mr. Lau for her 6th grade year through now in 8th grade. Amberlyn has only known Mr. Lau now in her 8th grade year.

Second Drivers Meeting

We are over here



Mr. Lau in generally is a chill teacher. He rarely has a class where it's boring. His lessons in science are easy to understand and if you need clarification. He will end up making a joke about it, but he will help you. Making jokes during test like "The answer to five is A." On a 4 question test to cheer us up. As a robotics he is determined with the teams. Telling us strategies if your stuck. He help our team with our pickup up problem. When our wheel got stuck on metal during a competition, he helped us while we were panicking next to him. He inspires us to close team. Like how he is with the another team from different districts. When they need to know some rules for the field. Showing us even if we are opponents that doesn't matter, we can still help each other.



Second Competition

Group Photo Time

Four Teams Round Up

Even when you feel like the world and society says no just because your a woman. Just know you can. You have a whole crowd of woman behind you supporting you. But just because those woman believe in you and support you. You also have to believe in yourself. Woman supporting woman.

Girl Power