



What 'Girl Powered' means to us?

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Girl Powered is confidence in ourselves.

As people surrounded by a whole host of strong women we see determination, hard work and persistence on a day-to-day basis. Whether it be from our mothers, who taught us that hard work pays off, or from our teammates, who inspire us to try new things and give everything our best shot, or even from our siblings, who inspire us to do our best.

The Girl Power in us is a cumulation of all the girls who lift us up, and in that, teach us to lift up others.



The first and probably most obvious smack-bang in your face way our teams' approach to robotics is influenced by girl power is that our team is an all-girls team. This, coupled with the fact that we go to an all-girls school influences not only our outlook to robotics but our outlook to life. . .

We're determined to go to robotics more and work harder and improve our robot because we want to prove that our team is just as good as other teams and that we have just as much merit.

For our team inclusivity is key, if we had not such a diverse amalgamation of views, we would not be quite the team we are today. Our differences not only strengthen us, they define us.

We help the younger students' teams with their robots, or any other type of help they need by giving them advice and explaining to them our own personal experiences with robotics.

In our school there is at least 10+ teams and more than 50 students in our robotics program, resulting in an extremely wide range of ethnicities, religions and

backgrounds. We support each other by helping each other where necessary and celebrating each other's successes, and that is definitely one of the best parts of robotics.



There are very many good people on earth, but only a few that truly inspire.

Katherine Johnson is one of them.

A pioneering mathematician, physicist and space scientist, Katherine Johnson, as well as her colleagues Dorothy Vaughn and Mary Jackson, was responsible for the calculations that guided NASA's 1962 Friendship 7 mission.

She was a bright individual with much to offer but she was forced to struggle for her position in NASA due to her gender and her colour. When she first started working, she got a job at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) where she worked in the West Area Computing Unit, a group of African American women who performed complex mathematical equations for the programme's engineers. These women were essential to the early success of the programme.

If they had the opportunity, not held back by societal restrictions, they would have been able to do so much more.

That is the importance in inclusivity in our team, as had we been born just a few decades earlier we would not have half the opportunities we have today.



One of the most enjoyable parts of robotics is that we are able to have a lot of different type of experiences. So far, we have been able to try a range of different roles in our team: Some of us started out doing building work on our robot but now are learning more about programming. Most importantly, we're getting involved, trying new things and diversifying our skill range.

Writing this essay was also something new. . .

When I started robotics, I hardly would've pictured myself writing an essay on how the phase "Girl Powered" influences me, yet here I am, not only writing the essay, but having volunteered to do it.



For us, and probably for many others, one of the most enjoyable aspects of robotics is competing. While competitions make up only a small part of robotics and hardly represent all that we do for our team they are usually looked forward too as you can meet and collaborate with like-minded people.

Even though we're from different places, different schools, different backgrounds, we would all come together at competitions with a common goal.

Our diversity of perspective not only pushes us to succeed.

It pushes us to thrive.