



ACADEMIA ROBOTICA PUEBLO

VIQC Middle School - Girl Powered Online Challenge

TEAM 71832M - RIDERS IV

ASUNCIÓN - PARAGUAY

TEAM MEMBERS

Sandra Suarez

Fabrizio Martin

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Mario Olmedo

Ariadna Duarte

A global movement began to grow a few years ago, a movement that is changing the world, a movement that is questioning everyone's ideas towards what roles are more suited for men and women, a global need for equality, a sense of awareness that everyone is capable of doing what they attempt to. Coming from a country very much immersed into sexism, When we, Riders 4, hear the phrase "girl powered", we think of the potential and great power that women hold, who seek respect and equality. Originally, our team was made up of mostly girls. When we enrolled in the academy, no one knew what role would suit them best. To decide which person would fill each role, we took turns and evaluated each other, until eventually everyone tried out all the roles. Each one had the opportunity to improve in what they are good at but at the same time get informed and learn a little about the rest of the roles. Teachers gave feedback to help decide which role best suits each student. This experience was very useful and helped the team a lot because everyone has a small amount of knowledge about everything, so we can always cooperate and exchange ideas.

While cooperating, we realized our group was growing stronger and that we started to trust and understand each other's opinions and personalities. Many students approached our team, wanting to join. These students were up for a challenge and got accepted after a few tests and discussions with teammates. We focused on having a diverse group of people and perspectives in our team, because this brought a lot of benefits, such as being able to propose different solutions for problems in many aspects, having many different talented people that could help in numerous tasks needed, among many more. A few months later we had the opportunity to participate in the first Latinoamerican Girl Powered Event, located in Medellín (Colombia) representing our country, Paraguay. On this occasion we met a few teams that set the bar high for the competition. At the Girl Powered event, our team won the judges recognition award and consistently ranked in the top 3 throughout the event. We believe that the main factor for the success of our team is the open space for the exchange of ideas and respect for the point of view of others. The ability and desire to win as well as the determination to succeed are aspects that must always be present in teams. We eventually accepted more people into our team, including boys, who helped us in tasks like the engineering notebook and the driving process.



Before the competition, our robot went through many changes, but that never stopped us. Each student gave their opinion to see what was needed to be modified in the design. As a team, you have to know how to discuss issues and properly propose different perspectives. We know that this is not something easy to incorporate into a learning environment, but listening, understanding and respecting others' opinions are very important values in a team because they can make people feel included and accepted. "Girl Powered" is more than just a girl competition; it is a reflection of the socio-cultural change that is being experienced today throughout the world, of how robotics trains and teaches with values, of how behind a team there is a group of hard-working students striving to improve and above all it shows that one can fall a thousand times, but will rise tirelessly until he achieves his goal.

Even if our team is now composed of both girls and boys, we don't lose the "Girl Powered" initiative, and the experience as an all-girl team competing in the Girl Powered event has helped us grow.

Our STEM role model is no other than Renata Zaracho, a current teacher at the academy. She was the youngest coach participating in the Girl Powered event, being only 17. Renata has more than 5 years of experience in VEX robotics and she directed and lectured in many nacional robotics conferences, encouraging many people to join and become educators in VEX robotics. She also was the head organizer in a national children's day event, where she became an inspiring figure for kids, cheering these kids and providing them with fun challenges related to STEM.

Winner of the Paraguay Open Robotics, being the youngest teacher winning two times the "best team" National award and winning tournaments since she was 14.



Renata is a constant inspiration to the team because of all the positive values she taught us while being in Colombia, she was constantly encouraging us to be open to other ideas and possibilities, teaching us to listen to others (alliances, teams, coaches, or our teammates), and to be respectful while talking to event partners and coaches. She taught us numerous things about the design process, the logistics of it and to always prioritize fairplay and teamwork. But above all, she showed us that the process in VEX robotics is a long road, and even though we may fall sometimes, new opportunities are always arising, and the decision of taking these opportunities and succeeding is always up to us, with the effort, confidence and persistence we choose to pursue.



The night Before the Event started all the teammates gathered and solved problems related to the robot



Ranking

| Rank | Team | Name | Avg. Points |
|------|--------|------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 71832M | Riders IV | 47 |
| 2 | 64731Z | Zabriskie IQ | 42 |
| 3 | 37991G | BOTS 7 | 39 |
| 4 | 10202C | World of Girls B | 32 |
| 5 | 22391A | Ninja Geeks | 32 |
| 6 | 10052C | X-ray team III | 27 |
| 7 | 10202D | Star Robotics | 26 |

Our team ranking 1st

