



GIRL POWERED

WE'VE REACHED THE END

EASTWOOD HS 8787E, EL PASO, TEXAS

Written by Bianca Mendoza
Participants Jenny, Isabelle,
Damien, Isaac and
Emmanuel

GIRL POWERED TO 8787E

While Girl Powered has a different meaning to each of us, the same thing comes to mind when we hear Girl Powered: diversity. We think of the equal opportunities for both girls and boys and the collaboration between men and women working together to succeed. Team 8787E is a perfect example of inclusivity in the STEM field and the true meaning of what Girl Powered is.



OUR TEAM



Isaac Herrera
2022



Bianca Mendoza
2022



Emmanuel Rojas
2025



Jenny Aguilar
2022



Damian De La Rosa
2025



Isabelle Flores
2022

A MISSION TO DIVERSIFY OUR STEM FIELD

When one takes a look at our team 8787E, we all look anything but the same. In fact, I'd argue that our team is a perfect vision of what we hope the STEM field becomes. We have several varsity athletes, a perfect ratio of young men and women, and officers for other organizations. When recruiting, don't look at one's gender, religion or race but instead at their leadership, problem-solving skills, and willingness to learn. We want nothing more than to help diversify the STEM field. El Paso is arguably one of the most diverse cities in Texas, and we take advantage of all the perspectives as best as we can.. The different views help us look at all the ways we might want to build, program, and choose the best strategy. The importance of diversity hit all of us really hard when we started hosting Girl Powered together. As a team, we ended up appreciating each others perspectives so much more and we made it a goal to always keep our minds open regardless of the situation

A MISSION TO DIVERSIFY OUR STEM FIELD

Our team consists of a lot of officers. That being said, we look out for more than just the members of our team. We are constantly finding new ways to diversify our robotics team and program. We want the younger generations to succeed as much as we did and we know that a diverse environment is needed. In an attempt to keep diversifying our robotics team, we recruit anyone from the girl in the computer science class who shows an interest CAD, to the boy in art class as he will provide new ways to improve our notebook. Our robotics room is open to anyone and their ideas...and we make sure that's well known.



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I believe there's ignorance where diversity isn't found. There is so much we can learn from others and their different points of views. The world's a diverse place and collaborating with a diverse team will better prepare us for the rest of our lives

-Damian

A CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT

On team 8787E we push each other to be the best versions of ourselves. Every single one of us is constantly learning from one another and teaching each other new things. I promise I would've never thought to attempt an essay like this as it was never something I excelled at, however my team encouraged me and pushed me out of my comfort zone. This is something that started with Girl Powered as we were teaching new things and stepping out of the box. Through the event, we all tried new things. I can assure you we never thought we'd end up learning new skills and teaching them 2 weeks later; or presenting to dozens at a time at such an impactful event like Girl Powered. Individually, we've all been pushed but we worked through the problem and grew stronger as a team. We are no longer fear new things and failure but instead, appreciate it as it's a lesson we learn from. We've taken that confidence to try new things and transferred it on the field. I never thought I would be good at programming, yet it's something I've been trying. Our driver has gotten amazing at building. Our programmer is an excellent driver, a skill we didn't know she would excel at until recently.

GIRL POWERED ON MEN

Girl Powered has also taught our men some very valuable lessons.

Girl Powered has opened my eyes to the endless possibilities that it has for girls who are pursuing STEM pathways. It excites me to see girls getting involved in STEM since they too have the power to improve the world around us. Seeing these amazing young women stepping out of their comfort zones and fighting stereotypes makes me excited to see what the future holds for them.

-Isaac



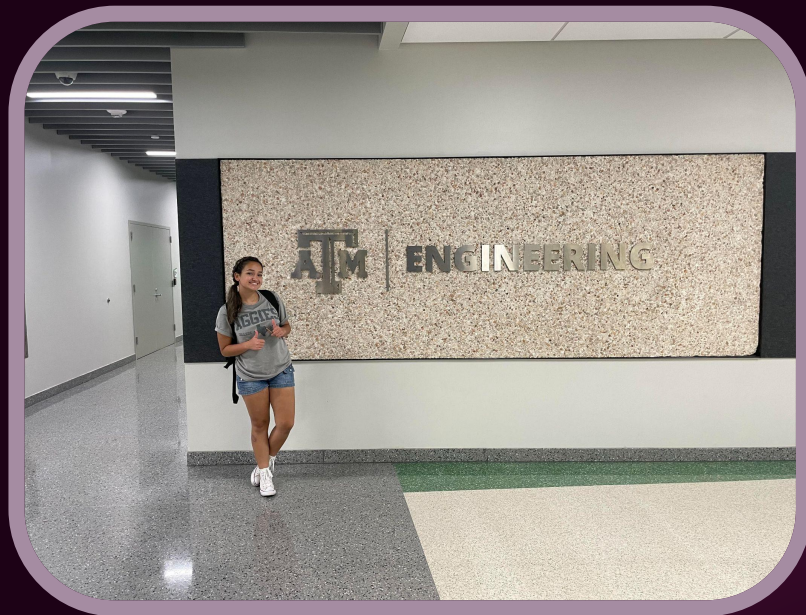
JENNY

“Girl powered has welcoming me into STEM and allowing me to do what I love most. I have personally grown as an individual and am blessed to have an opportunity to learn from such an event”



MY STORY

My name is Bianca Mendoza and I'm a senior at Eastwood High School. I'm lucky enough to serve as this year's secretary and historian for my robotics team. I've been interested in the STEM field for as long as I can remember and plan on pursuing a career in civil engineering at Texas A&M University. Being that I have been involved with the STEM field for such a long time, I've had my fair share of ups and downs. I've had to overcome a lot of obstacles seeing as how I am a Hispanic female entering a male dominated field.



MY STORY

For a while, I often found myself doubting my abilities at competitions and events simply due to the fact that there were more men. I felt discouraged, overlooked and like my voice didn't matter. I know that my lack of confidence wasn't the fault of my male peers and competitors, but rather the stigma and stereotype surrounding women in the stem field. The first time I attended Girl Powered it completely changed my perspective on women in the STEM field. Seeing women presenting gave me hope. Being surrounded by girls interested in the stem field made me feel less alone.

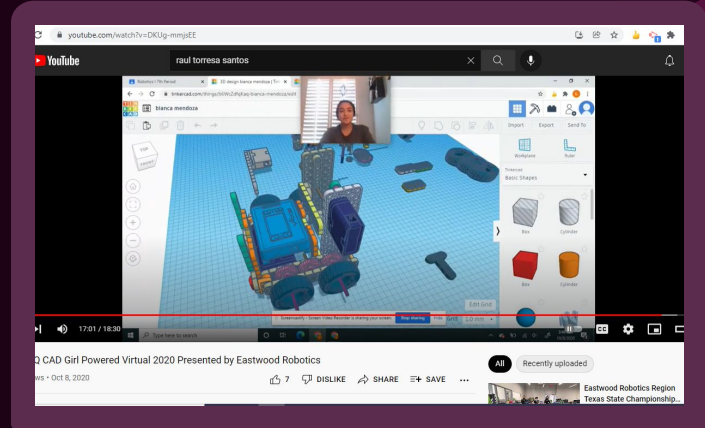


MY STORY

Yes I learned how to code, how to 3D print and how to better myself at the strategic part of robotics, but the life lessons I learned were much more valuable to me. I learned I wasn't alone, I grew confidence, and I regained hope about people like me the STEM field.

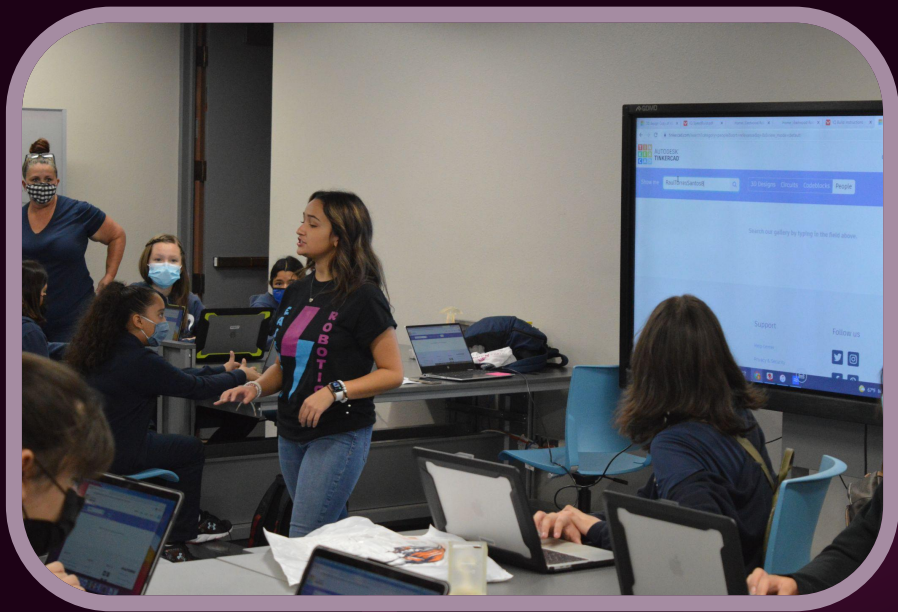
MY STORY

As high school came along, I wanted to give girls the same lessons that I learned attending Girl Powered. Since my freshman year I've been presenting. The lessons I've learned from attending and presenting have been very different, however, the importance is the same to me. I got good at public speaking thanks the confidence I gained. I got great at thinking fast when I was asked questions. I learned how to make videos and the things involved like uploading, recording and editing. I learned how to be a leader and manage my people as they too were presenting. I learned what it took to run such an event, the coordination, the communication, and the fundraising. Helping girls learn the same things I did how to CAD, how drones work and how to build a robot was satisfying.



MY STORY

However, the most rewarding part of it all was seeing them learn the same life lessons I learned, seeing that same spark and hope that I got when I first attended. Knowing that I was being looked up to by the future of women in STEM, was definitely the most gratifying part of it all. Girl Powered is such an amazing event, and I know that girls everywhere are learning about the STEM field, it's opportunities, I can surely say I don't know where I would be, and what my life would look like, had it not been for Girl Powered,



OUR STEM ROLE MODEL

Team 8787E is a team full of seniors. Being that we've spent the majority of our high school careers in robotics, we've gotten really close with our coach Mr. Torres. He has been an amazing role model to us and has morphed us into the young leaders we are today. Most of us are officers, so we have many responsibilities that can get overwhelming; he is always lending a helping hand and giving us advice to become better leaders. In addition, he has given us opportunities and opened doors that we never thought were possible. Every day, he pushes us. He has always encouraged us to diversify our teams, as he believes the more point of views we have, the better our team will be. I speak on all of 8787E's behalf when I thank Mr. Torres for emerging us into the STEM field and it's possibilities.



WE'VE REACHED THE END

As our class gets ready to graduate, we'll walk across that stage taking what Girl Powered has taught us and begin using it in real life. The life lessons we've learned from the past 4-6 years of Girl Powered will make us the leaders of tomorrow. We learned how to code, problem solve and CAD but the life lessons of organization, collaboration and using each other ideas to create the best possible solution, are what we will take into college and the workforce. With every passing year, we have gained confidence and work ethic thanks to Girl Powered. On behalf of our seniors in STEM, we thank VEX robotics, RECF and Girl Powered for all the life lessons we will be taking to the next part of our lives.

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