

# A Small High School's Big Mission of Being Girl Powered

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Team Number:

Team Location: Shoreham-Wading River High School

The phrase “Girl Powered” is very meaningful to the Shoreham-Wading River High School’s robotics team, and we work to increasingly incorporate the ideas of the Girl Powered initiative into our team at every meeting. When I hear “Girl Powered” I think about all the opportunities that are opened up through participation in robotics and how robotics strives to be a diverse environment that is supportive of everyone, regardless of gender. “Girl Powered” is reflected in my team’s approach to robotics as there are seemingly endless opportunities for women to be involved in the robotics team. As a woman interested in robotics, I find our robotics team to be empowering. I first entered the robotics team as a freshman and became the head programmer that year and continue to be so. I love having the opportunity to lead and solve problems in my robotics team, something that wouldn’t be possible without my team’s dedication to the Girl Powered initiative. On my team there isn’t any distinction between the male and female members, we are simply one team working together to learn, improve, and succeed; everyone has an equal opportunity for success if they put in the effort.

My team works hard to create an inclusive environment. On my team there are members who are of different genders and have different ethnic backgrounds. This is important to our team because we are able to improve ourselves by learning about each other and different cultures, allowing us to become better people as well as better roboticists. We promote the robotics team to other students by telling them what robotics is all about and the great memories that we have made from being on the team; from creating a robot that could carry snacks from the vending machine to finally figuring out why a certain code wouldn’t work after an entire meeting of working on it. Some of my best memories from robotics are of the team testing out the robot around

the school and making sure it can function properly and for a prolonged period of time rather than only in the short run. The planning process for creating the robot is also interesting as we get to hear the opinions of every member of the team and see presentations of ideas. By combining the ideas of team members we can come up with a great robot that we wouldn't be able to create without the help of the rest of the team.



*The robot used to retrieve snacks from the school vending machine.*

There are many roles that members of the robotics team can try. At the start of the season all members are involved with design and strategy. We watch the opening video of the season's VEX robotics competition. After that, each member gets a chance to plan and draw out a potential robot and come up with different ideas. We discuss our plans and some members present their drawings. The rest of the team gives feedback and constructive criticism to the plan. We use combinations of ideas to come up with the best robot we can. Through this process we learn how to work as a team to have





