

When the phrase Girl Powered comes to mind, people often think of “women supporting women”, female empowerment, and feminism as a whole. As a team, we wholeheartedly agree with these notions and strive to incorporate them into all aspects of our team. However, we think that there is so much more to Girl Powered. Oftentimes, identity becomes too much of a focal point within the ideas of Girl Powered, inherently categorizing people, creating an unintentional rift between genders. Regardless of whether or not the treatment is more or less beneficial to girls in robotics, it still creates gender inequality. On our team, we treat Girl Powered in a slightly different fashion. Equality is extremely important to us, and we are focused on creating a space where everyone can contribute and collaborate. People on our team join not because of pressure from their identity, rather we look towards merit, genuine passion, and interest in robotics.

We take the initiative to invite anyone who has an interest in robotics. People on our team join not because of pressure from their identity, rather we look towards merit, genuine passion, and interest in robotics. They do not feel compelled to join, nor do we force them to feel compelled to join for their differences from us, whether that be through gender, race, economic background, etc. Our team will never judge any other member of the team differently because of innate differences, and will give equal opportunities no matter the gender.



We will rotate team members to do specific tasks at specific times. If team members want to do a particular thing or are good at something then we will rotate them to that side of robotics more. During the summer program, we lay a foundation for all the different aspects of robotics. The summer program is where the team explores their interests and skills in robotics and will help decide what role they want to fall in. Team members will still have to rotate their assignments, however. Every team member has to contribute equally to the production of the notebook, and have an additional role on top of that, whether that be coding, building, etc. This ensures that our team is productive as well as allows us to branch out and explore our passions.

We believe that our diversity of perspectives doesn't change our robot's design, our chances of success, or our team chemistry. There are two girls on our team compared to seven boys, however, we don't think that our opinions matter less than the boy's opinions do. Diversity of perspectives should not change any part of robotics, nor should it be a hindrance to our team's progress, rather we see it as an opportunity for improvement and growth. Our diversity of perspectives comes from our individual experiences, and those experiences will build upon each other as we share ideas and communicate.

Our STEM role model would be our coach and mentor, Ryan B. Tang. From the very first day, he laid down rules that promoted equality amongst ourselves. Rules such as that everyone has to contribute to the notebook, and can pick and choose one other role that they would like. This enables everyone to pick whether or not they want to design, build, or code and creates equal opportunities for us. Despite also being very busy, he

makes time out of his schedule to train potential candidates during the summer program, giving anyone who has potential a chance to become part of the team, no matter what their background or gender.

While the idea and concept of Girl Powered is something that we as a team believe in wholeheartedly, we are more focused on creating a space of equality.