

"Woman Is  
The New  
Strong!"

# We Are Girl Powered!

"Little  
Girls With  
Dreams  
Become  
Women With  
Vision"

"Never  
Apologize  
For Being  
A Powerful  
Woman"

Team 88880X

From Ashburn, VA

"The  
Future Is  
Female!"

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# What Does The Phrase “Girl-Powered” Mean To Us?

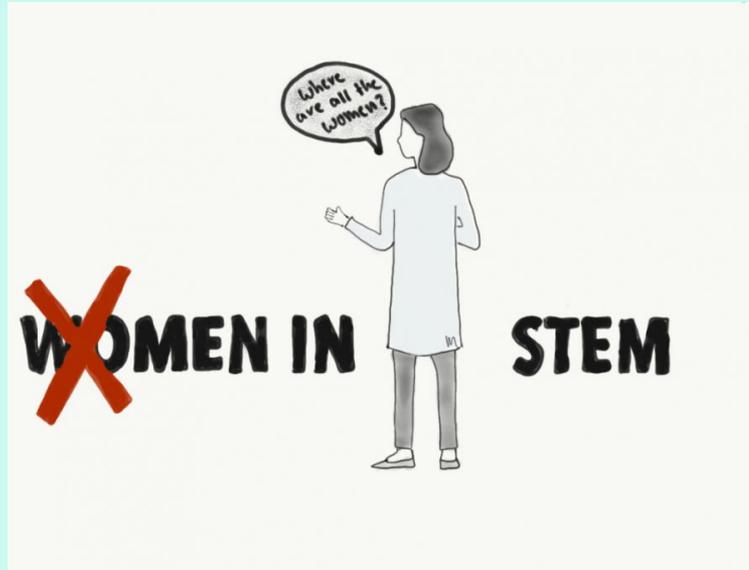


When we hear the phrase, Girl Powered, we think of all the women in STEM who got where we are in present society by changing the world with their revolutionary ideas. Role models such as Marie Curie, Katherine Johnson, and Florence Nightingale are some of the many pioneers to advance in fields of STEM and transform modern history.

To us, Girl Powered means motivating and supporting our fellow teammates to never be afraid of trying new things, try grasping onto goals outside of their comfort zone, and making them a sense that they belong. This includes exploring fields that haven't been traversed before and being open to making mistakes. Mistakes are notable, especially while exploring a new area since they are expected and valued. Girl Power is about encouraging others to embrace diverse cultures and stimulating new experiences.

# Girl-Power In Society

As Girl Power is requisite, there are not many examples shown in the world. Last year, two of our team members took a robotics class, and we noticed how there were only three girls, including us, out of 24 students. This was a 7:1 ratio. We noticed a similar pattern while taking a computer science class this year.



**We Shall Change This!**  
**Share and Inspire Girl-Power**  
**Everywhere!**

There are many statistics proving male-dominance in STEM. Many girls are discouraged and lose interest in STEM because they don't have female mentors. Also, there are many gender stereotypes such as boys should pursue careers in engineering and girls should just sit on the sidelines. While others may not admit it, this is true. These statistics will not determine what we choose to do with our lives. We will not idly stand by, however, take a course of action.

# Our Role Model!

There are many female role models in society that it's difficult to choose one who's our role model. Every female who has made an impact is our role model, as they were able to transform the world with no care of gender stereotypes. If we were to choose one role model, it would be Nora Ayanian. Her robotic research is mindblowing as she was able to create solutions for multirobot coordination, which allows people to use teams of robots. She is also an MIT Technology Review TR25 Top Inventor, which is an amazing accomplishment. She inspired our team as she made a huge impact in the robotics field, while the field was still developing. This inspired us as it didn't matter our gender or how little the field is known, we can still make an impact.



Advancing the robotics field with a smile on her face!

#GirlBoss

#WomenInSTEM

#GirlPower

# First Time We Saw Girl Power In Action (Part 1)

During our first year of robotics, our team was composed of two girls and two boys. We knew the boys on our team would doubt our abilities, so us girls, stuck together and put all our effort to exceed their expectations. We always stepped in and volunteered for tasks to complete between matches. Our goal was to show them to never underestimate our abilities, and that we should be treated as individual entities, not one inferior to the other. During one of our competitions, both of the boys on our team weren't able to make it, so it was just us girls, to represent the skill level of our team. The competition was starting off great, as we won our first few qualification matches. Then, it was our last qualification match. I was yelling out strategies, while my teammate was flawlessly executing them. The last ten seconds determined whether we'd make it to the elimination matches. Finally, the scores were totaled up.



Look how happy we are!

# First Time We Saw Girl Power In Action (Part 2)

We made it to the elimination matches! We were ready to test how far girl power would take us and we ultimately made it to the finals. We strategized with our alliance to develop the most effective tactics. Autonomous got us in the lead by six points, then, the driver control portion began. 30 seconds left in the game, and we're a few points behind. We quickly executed a different strategy, even though there was risk involved. "3, 2, 1! Controllers down" the referee shouted. No one could tell which team won due to the closeness of the game. Finally, the scores were displayed. We were both awestruck as we won by three points. Our faces were glowing with bliss! When we walked up to receive our award, we were both so proud of ourselves and never expected to get this far. To our luck, we also received the Excellence Award! This was the first time we saw girl power in action.



**Our beautiful awards side by side!**

# Girl-Power Inspiring Us to Go To The World Championship!

Our team realized the extraordinary results of girl power, so we took initiative by adding another girl to our team in our second year. We created a more inclusive environment by dispelling these gender stereotypes. We also attracted a diverse group of students by communicating to teams during competitions about how we incorporated girl power. That year, we qualified for the World Championships and partook in the Live Remote Competition. We won first place in our division and won the Excellence Award! We were ecstatic with these results, but we knew that we worked assiduously to make this happen. By receiving the highest award in the World Championships, we want to inspire girls all over the world to not worry about being viewed differently because of their gender as they can accomplish the same tasks as boys, in fact do more with collaboration and hardwork.



Us dressed up for the Worlds online judge interview; super scary by the way

# Where Girl-Power Has Led Us

In our current year, we have a team with all girls, and hope to get far this season. We are confident in our team progressing by competing in more competitions and learning new concepts along the way, and advancing in a way to showcase girl-power everywhere we go. At every competition we attend, we will take a course of action by communicating with teams about the importance of girl power, and how it allowed us to go high places.



**Our first competition of the season and as high schoolers! Masks were just sooo fun to deal with.**

# Everyone Has A Role To Play, So What Are Ours?

Our team consists of four 9th graders - Amulya Gottipati, Niesha Karthik, Nila Palanisamy, and Dhanya Babu, who is a new addition to our team! Each and every one of us has worked on a different aspect of the essential tasks for this year's competition, however, we each were able to take part in other tasks so that each member would understand the different roles. We encourage each other to try different roles by not strictly abiding to one role. This allows each member to explore all the areas that make us a team!



We are proud to be a girl-powered team, as we are not afraid to express ourselves and opinions, which is due to our experience in robotics.

# Amulya Gottipati - Sedulous Strategist

Amulya was the strategist, scout, and the engineering notebook manager. She has learned that strategy is important for every game, and that collaborating with your alliance is extremely important to be on the same page.



# Niesha Karthik - Dexterous Driver

Niesha was the driver, programmer, and builder. She has learned that programming is a time-consuming task, and to never give up, no matter how frustrating it is.



# Nila Palanisamy - Brainy Builder

Nila was the builder, strategist, and the back-up driver. She has learned from several years of experience that every season requires new modules and more research to create the most successful robot.



# Dhanya Babu - Sensational Scout

Dhanya was the scout, builder, and programmer. This is her first year, but so far, she learned how important scouting teams are, during the competition so we can pick our best alliance in the elimination matches.



# Diversity of Perspective

One of the key ways our team is able to thrive is from the diversity of perspective our team possesses. Designing various modules of our robot, collaborating together, and being able to succeed all depends on our team members. Our team is able to develop optimal solutions to specific design issues of our robot because of our unique perspectives. We figured this out when we were trying to narrow down our brainstorming ideas to the most optimal idea. This also improves our team chemistry because everyone's ideas and voices are heard when we're brainstorming, which allows us to collaborate more efficiently. This leads to us succeeding because with more collaboration and exchange of ideas, it expands our knowledge by thinking of creative solutions, thus having a successful team and robot! This is how diversity of perspective plays a significant role in our team.

