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Girl Powered[®]

Oftentimes, females are deprecated in STEM. It's become the standard to assume the aspirations of females should not be oriented towards a "male-oriented industry", such as robotics. When we hear the phrase "**Girl Powered**", we feel committed as a diverse team with immense passion for STEM to assist with working on the perception of our gender-biased society. 11476X has made it the ultimate priority to achieve the ideology of "**Girl Powered**", and here's how...

THE STARTING "POINT"



As the newest addition to Mater Academy's Robotics Program, 11476X felt inclined to set the "Girl Powered" example. Our team formation was focused on establishing an inclusive foundation, welcoming roboticists of all ethnicities, genders, races. As equally important, 11476X considered the future of the team and its "Girl Powered" initiative.

With this in mind, our youngest team member was recruited in hopes of continuing our driving factor in the future: the development of young women in STEM at Mater Academy Robotics. Our team consists of an equal number of women (3) and male (3) leaders.



Stellan Sarduy (2022)



Victoria Velazquez (2023)



Adonis Serrano (2022)

TEAM



Milenys Sanchez (2023)



Julian Cristancho (2022)



Eriesia Coney (2024)



At the beginning of the school year, we discussed the expertise among our team; While some of us were extremely strong suited in one category, others lacked in the same. In effect, to ensure that our team members feel comfortable enough to collaborate in a certain aspect in which they are unfamiliar with, we created a role cycle that allows us to efficiently alternate roles every 2 weeks.

We began by pairing each other in consideration of experience. For example, Stellan is exceptionally skilled in building and Victoria is especially accomplished in documenting, so they paired up for the first 2 weeks. The purpose of such is for Stellan to guide Victoria through the building aspect of the design process, and vice versa. Every 2 weeks, we alternate pairs, sometimes focusing on expertise, or simply just a desire to learn. We value the time given into learning about the multiple aspects of VEX Robotics.

While this cycle has been efficient in ensuring that there is wide-spread participation among the roles of our team, we do not strictly enforce it since some of us spark a particular interest and prefer to spend extra time working on a particular role. In addition, we prioritize collaboration and make sure that the foundation of all of our decisions is inclusive.

THE POWER OF DIVERSITY



As a result of our inclusive experimentation with our design process, we have been ranked #1 skills in Florida, with a score of 422 total. We have competed at 4 different competitions this year thus far including WAVE @ WPI Signature Event in Boston, Massachusetts. Overall, we have been awarded the Judges Award, Excellence Award, Skills Champions, and Tournament Champions.

OUR STEM ROLE MODEL

In Memory Of



Janice Thomas Mills

Each one of our team members had the privilege of learning from the best, Mrs. Mills. She inspired us to establish the International Robotics Honor Society Chapter and expand our passion for robotics throughout the school.



Mrs. Mills had a Bachelor Degree in Architecture at University of Florida, and a Masters Degree in Education at University of Central Missouri. She was a supporter of the Tim Tebow Foundation, was on the Historic Preservation Board, and lead the Project Lead the Way program in Missouri.