

44777U DiscoBotZ | Redmond, WA

Girl Powered

Varun, Mitra, Nanda, Sarvesh

Flipping the Switch



44777U

DiscoBotZ
Redmond, WA

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VEX
ROBOTICS
COMPETITION

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In the 2020-2021 season, the DiscoBotZ consisted of 4 boys, with no girls.

The year after, we decided to flip the switch and broaden our diversity. We did this by adding 2 girls to the team.

MEET THE TEAM



Mitra

Mitra is a junior at Tesla STEM High School. She was recruited in 2021.



Nanda is a junior at Redmond High School. She was recruited in 2021.

Nanda

Varun is a junior at Eastlake High School. He has been the lead programmer since 2017.

Varun



Sarvesh is a senior at Eastlake High School. He has been the team captain since 2017.

Sarvesh



With 4 people on our team, we are able to get a variety of different ideas and opinions. We each took on different roles and responsibilities but work as a team to collaborate. We all have our own roles but we allow each other to experience all aspects of robotics.

During our meetings, we make sure to utilize our different backgrounds and perspectives. We do this throughout the entire season. For example, at the beginning of our season when we're building the robot, we all collaborate and come up with ideas for our robot. This includes watching robot reveals on YouTube and collectively decide what our robot design should look like.



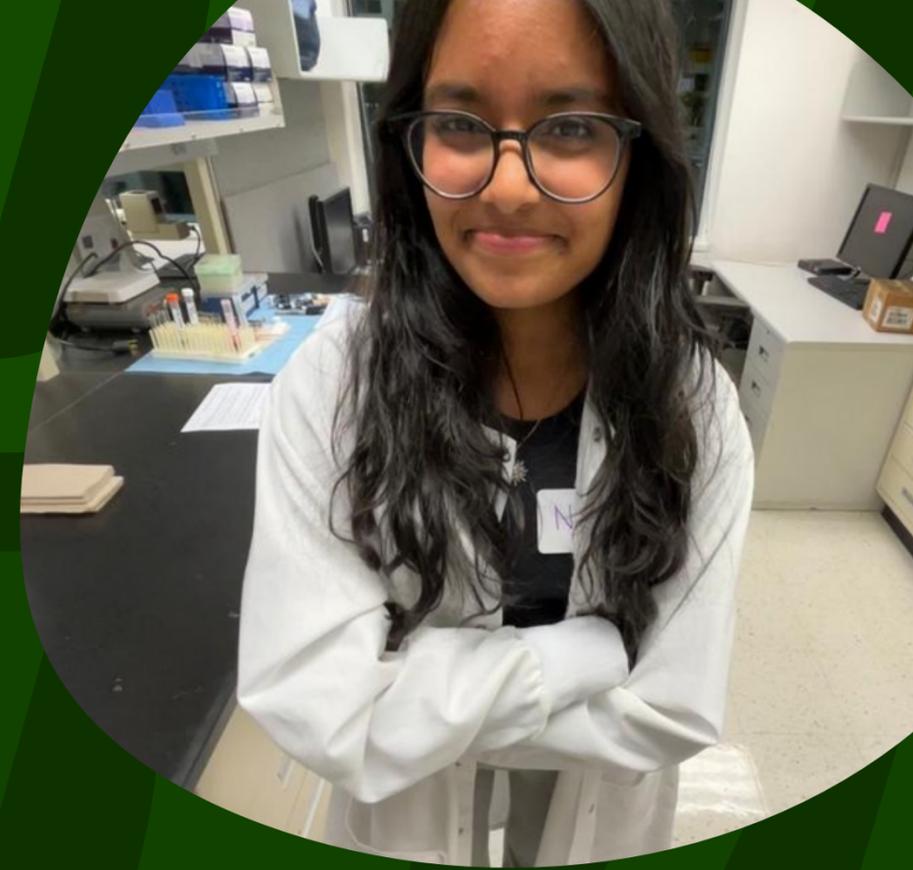
Our differences in experience also brings different perspectives and ideas to the creation and programming of our robot. With Sarvesh and Varun being experienced members of the VEX community they are accustomed to traditional methods of building and programming. Mitra and Nanda are able to bring new ideas to the table that are outside the realm of what is considered "normal" in the VEX community.





Mitra is the website manager and public relations for the DiscoBotZ. She is a South Asian woman that wants to pursue a STEM career. This is her 2nd year participating in VEX robotics and in the past 2 years she has grown a passion for engineering and hopes to pursue a career in biomedical engineering. She hopes to apply this passion and help other young girls in her community.

Nanda is the engineering notebook manager for the DiscoBotZ. She is also a South Asian woman that wants to pursue a STEM career. This is her 3rd year participating in VEX robotics. She has an interest in medicine and biology, and hopes to pursue a career in the healthcare field, specifically an oncologist. She hopes to use her skills to help other young girls.



After adding girls to our team, we learned the definition of girl power. Girl power says a thousand words in a single phrase. It embodies the impact and strength of girls around the world. It promotes diversity, inclusivity, and confidence in a world built by men.

After learning about girl power, we couldn't help but spread this idea to our community. We have held many camps for students of all backgrounds. For example, in November of 2022, we held our Annual Fall Camp and educated middle school students about VEX robotics. Through this experience, we were able to empower young girls to pursue robotics.



This is a photo from our Annual Fall Camp with some of the girls who attended and Mitra.

We have had one main inspiration to hold these camps...



KAMALA HARRIS

Whenever we think about girl power, we picture Kamala Harris. To start her political career, she joined the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Here, she prosecuted child sexual assault cases. Almost 13 years later, she was elected District Attorney of San Francisco. This is where she created a program for first-time drug offenders and gave them the opportunity to earn a high school degree as well as find a job.

7 years later, she was elected California's Attorney General and was responsible for their state justice department. Another 7 years later, she climbed the political ladder and became a United States Senator. She fought for immigrants and tried to improve conditions at detention facilities. Then, in August of 2020, she overcame odds and became the first woman, African American, and South Asian American to become the Vice President of the United States. We look up to her courage and leadership in today's world. She has been very influential to us, not only because she's a powerful women, but also because she is an Asian American, like the 4 of us, who is flipping the switch and exceling in today's world.



Throughout these past years competing in VEX, we have strived to be inclusive to all genders and races. We hope to flip the switch in our communities and empower young girls to pursue STEM fields. We also hope to expand our reach and help girls from areas around the world.