

Team 11471J

HECK FIRE

Team: Madi, Aydan and Kendall

Presentation by: Madi LaSota

**VIQC Middle School
Girl Powered Challenge 2023
Niagara Falls, New York**



Team 11471 J

HECK FIRE

We are Heck Fire, an all-girls robotics team. The partners are Kendall, Madi, and Aydan at Lasalle Preparatory School. Every single day we come down to robotics during school and after. We spend hours working on our robot, working with each other and asking for help when we need it. Robotics helps us with many skills including problem solving and with our confidence.





Kendall and Aydan just started robotics this year. Madi is an 8th grader and was on the robotics team last year. Robotics is a great way to learn all of these amazing skills that will help you in life. By doing robotics, we hope to inspire more girls to get into STEM, and work hard. When Kendall, Madi and Aydan think of girl power it means being in the right place and expressing ourselves in STEM.

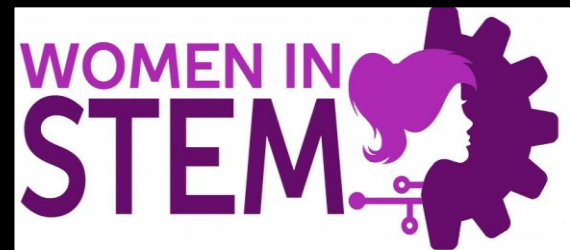


What does “Girl Powered” mean to us?

When Heck Fire hears “Girl Powered,” we think of teamwork and cooperation. We also think girl power is independence, confidence, and empowerment in women. Being an all-girls team means living up to these girl powered expectations and being able to overcome all kinds of challenges. There are many men who think they are way better than women but girls who do robotics can prove them wrong. Girl power shows confidence and helps girls thrive to be great. Girl power shows how strong girls are and what they are capable of doing. Girl power means a lot to us because it shows what girls are capable of and not being compared against each other.

The logo for "Girl Powered" features the word "Girl" in blue, a purple lightning bolt symbol, and the word "Powered" in purple. The entire logo is set against a white background within a black-bordered box.

Girl Powered

The logo for "Women in STEM" features the text "WOMEN IN" in purple above "STEM" in a larger purple font. To the right is a purple silhouette of a girl's head with a gear and a molecular structure integrated into her hair. The logo is set against a white background within a black-bordered box.

WOMEN IN
STEM

How do we take initiative to create a more inclusive environment?

Heck Fire takes initiative to create a more inclusive environment. We always respect each other and listen to each other's ideas instead of saying no right away. When Kendall and Aydan first met they didn't know each other at all but robotics brought them together. We work hard together to get what we need to get done because we both share the same goal. Robotics has made us closer as friends and shows us how to work together to do our tasks. We decided to join robotics because it is fun and for skills outside of STEM. Robotics can prove how powerful girls can be in STEM.



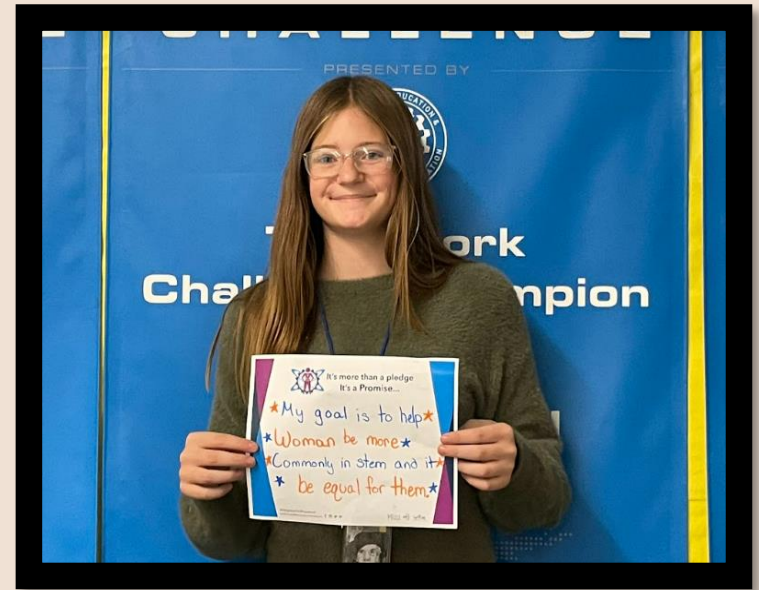
What are our team members various roles on the team?

Our team tries various roles on the team by letting each other try new things. If someone is better at journaling and the other is better at coding, we switch it up so everyone gets a chance to do everything. We all make sure we talk to each other and make each other know that they are doing great. All of us as teammates use teamwork and collaboration to problem solve through difficult situations. All of us build and drive, Aydan is the main coder and Kendall is the main journal writer. We all give each other equal opportunities to try these roles.



How does diversity of perspective help us succeed?

We all want more girls to be involved in STEM and try it out instead of people not giving women a chance to prove how powerful they can be. We both hope that girls get more involved in STEM because it will help with many things outside of robotics. STEM will impact everybody's life in one way or another. We all collaborate with each other while building to get different ideas. Robotics has created a strong bond between us because we listen to each other's thoughts and ideas.



“My goal is to help woman be more common in STEM and for it to be equal for them” –Madi LaSota



Who is our STEM role model?

Our role model is Sally Ride. Sally Ride was the youngest American astronaut and the third woman ever to travel to space in 1983. Sally Ride inspired us to be the best we can be by working hard and trying to achieve our dreams. Sally inspires us because she was the youngest first American woman to travel to space. This shows us that if we work hard we can achieve our dreams, so we can be successful at anything we do even outside of STEM.



Sally Ride is an inspiration to us because she works hard. Sally Ride also aspired to play baseball for the Dodgers. She unfortunately couldn't pursue her dream because the sport was played by only men. Kendall played baseball for 5 years with all boys and it was hard for them to think she was good so she kept on showing that she was good. I also have been playing softball since I was 4. Sally Ride is a huge inspiration not just in science but also sports. Sally shows us that we can not only be good in STEM but we can also be amazing in sports when it is dominated by boys. As the third woman to launch into orbit and a huge baseball fan, she has a great influence on us.

