<u>Title of Submission:</u>

VIQC Elementary School - Girl Powered Challenge Sponsored by Google

> <u>Student Names:</u> Caitlyn and Riley

<u>Team Number:</u> Team 18000A

<u>Location:</u> Carson Street Elementary STEAM Academy

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Hi, we are from Carson Street Elementary, Team 18000A. We believe that "Girl Power" means that girls are powerful and can do anything anyone else can do. Just because they are girls doesn't mean they're not able to do things boys can do. That's what "Girl Power" means to us.

We believe that it's better if girls and boys work together as one team. If it's just boys, it's going to be similar ideas but if there are girls on the team, their ideas will be different since they have different experiences and backgrounds. Boys are really smart, but girls are also really smart and that's why girls should be included in Vex IQ Robotics. Many of the girls on the team, Caitlyn, Riley, Valerie, and Madeline have many different and important roles. For example, Caitlyn is a good driver and good at building, Riley also drives well and is good at programming, Valerie has great leadership skills and she is a good problem solver, and Maddy is very creative and has a lot of great suggestions on what to do.

We know that the team coach takes initiative to create an inclusive environment by including girls and boys on the team. By including people from different backgrounds and of different races, our team tries to involve anyone who wants to join Vex IQ Robotics. Many of the girls on our team come from different backgrounds and are of different races. Riley is Filipino and Hawaiian, Caitlyn is Filipino and Mexican, Valerie is Guadamaline, and Maddy is Mexican and Cuban. They are all very important girls on our team and have a lot of great ideas for our robotics team.

Our STEM role model is Sara-Marie Riyad. According to CSEdweek, "She expands access to STEM and CS education to marginalized communities including orphaned women in Egypt". Sara-Marie realized that many people all over the world didn't have the opportunities to have access to a STEM education unlike her. When she was in high school she reached out to the Metropolitan of Port Said, to help an orphanage in Egypt gain access to STEM education. Fast forward to now, she is known by many people for her kindness and she still helps with Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion also known as DEI. Like Sara, we believe it's very important as a team to have these same opportunities for everyone, especially girls. Our team is a wonderful example of why girls should be included in Vex Robotics. Our friend, Valerie, programs the robots and drives them very well. Her average points are thirty-two! She always shows up on time for competitions and spends her time after school in the robotics lab. She's very committed to robotics which is very good. Next is Madeline, she's a very smart person. She spends most of her time practicing her driving skills. Madeline also helps other members build parts of the robot. Let's talk about Riley now, Riley is so kind and is a really good programmer and a wonderful driver. Her average points are 30! Last but not least, let's talk about the wonderful person, Caitlyn. She is very nice and she helps the team by helping them build. She is also an awesome driver. Her average points are 30! They are all wonderful people on the team and the team wouldn't be the same without them.

That's why we think girls should be included in Vex IQ Robotics. We are so happy we got the chance to do this essay. We would like to thank you so much for listening to our essay about girls in robotics!

Credits:

https://www.csedweek.org/heroes