

Girl Powered

Emma, Tessa, Layla

Goforth G.E.A.R.S.

810D

Houston, Texas

Hi! We are team 810D from Goforth Robotics, Houston, Texas. We are the only all fourth-grader team. We are also an all-girls team. Our names are Emma, Tessa, and Layla. We believe that we have completed the Girl Powered initiative of redefining the face of S.T.E.M. by already becoming one of the best teams in Goforth Robotics. When we got started, we faced hardships. We had to redo the robot's basic structure twice! On our third try, we finally got it right! Once we got the hang of Robotics, we quickly rose to the top. Some of our most important traits are determination, creativity, and teamwork.

When we hear the phrase "Girl powered" we think of girls powering (like a battery) their teams/divisions. We think of girls doing their best in all they do, working hard, and being examples for others to follow. This reflects us because we have qualified for State and the U.S. Open, and we may qualify for Worlds.

We insure we are inclusive by meeting and strategizing at events with teams from other campuses and schools. We demonstrate good character during our strategy meetings with other teams. We make sure that they feel heard and that their input is appreciated.

Even though we have designated roles within our team, we help each other in everything we do. Emma is

the team captain, and her primary responsibility is to write in the notebook. Layla is the builder, and her primary responsibility is to build/ design the robot. Tessa is the coder, and her primary responsibility is to code the robot. No matter what, if someone on our team needs help, we help them. At competitions, we try our best to make sure that the driving opportunities are fair and just. From driving, we learn how to better control our robot and work better under pressure. If our team wins an award, we go up there as a team, as we all worked together to earn it.

We think that diversity of perspective makes us a better team because when we design a robot, we each have a different idea of how we should do it. We will often combine ideas, as it increases the robot's success. We think our team chemistry is like siblings. We each have strong personalities, and each have leadership qualities. Sometimes, there are just too many cooks in the kitchen, and we have the occasional scuffle. In the end, we resolve through compromise, and would not be content if we were on any other team, because we think our team is perfect the way it is.

Our role model is our robotics coach, Ms. Shanahan. She inspires us to be better robotics people by giving us options in our building process, will stand by our side at competitions, even if we do horribly. She will also make

sure that we all are treated with respect and kindness, even if we are a little spicy.

We are glad that robotics is inclusive of girls. We strongly feel that girls are just as capable as boys in all that we do. We are hopeful that in the future more girls will join robotics programs around the world.