

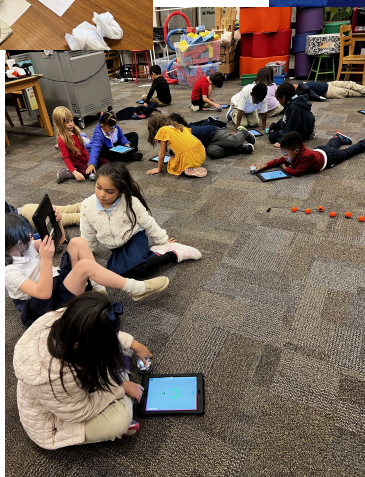
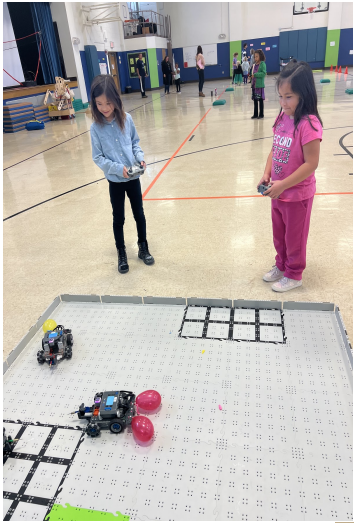
FireFoxes are Fueled by GirlPower 10404E

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



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International Day of the Girl Photos are used in document





When you hear “Girl Power” what comes to mind? How is it reflected in your team’s approach to robotics?

When we hear the term “girl powered” we first think of how people work to include girls in robotics and STEM things that maybe they would not have done. A big part of being girl powered is about showing girls all the options that are available in STEM careers that girls might not know about because they have not seen

women in those jobs before. As girls who are “girl powered”, we work hard to make sure we include all kinds of students on our robotics teams and at our events. We always encourage each other to try hard and to be problem solvers. We never want anyone to feel left out because they are a girl or because of their race, religion or anything else. Girl powered is a vibe you feel.



How does your team take initiative to create a more inclusive environment that attracts a diverse group of students?

We are always talking to kids about our team. We are constantly telling others the things we do, build, and about our competitions. We show them that robotics is a safe place to learn and grow. If new students make mistakes we encourage them to think outside of the box and be creative problem solvers. We want them to know that making mistakes is part of robotics and engineering. We stay positive and confident that we can solve problems and we



show others that this works. No one's ever left out. When we work as a team we attack problems together and make sure everyone has input. We also make sure to hype each other up when we finally solve a problem. It's all about being positive.

We had a special event for the International Day of the Girl. This was a day of service for our team. We really wanted to reach out to our community about all of the cool STEM and robotic things that we were learning. We worked together to think of activities we have done



that were interesting but that most kids probably have not done

before. We wanted to be sure to include things for all ages. We introduced STEM building kits, drones to fly, photography with AR (Augmented Reality), Makey Makeys, coding on Scratch, and many more. Of course, we had to include driving some robots we built. Freeze Tag with the Vex robots was a big hit with everyone.

We also had our school's robotics teams teach many of the activities at our event. We had several moms that pitched into run stations. (Our moms and families are girl powered too!)

Everyone was invited. We sent flyers home to the families at our school and other schools in Indianapolis. We also made announcements on our school district's website and Facebook page.



We think our robotics team should encourage all things STEM in our classmates. This is the list of things we had at our International Day of the Girl REC event. Two members of our team also assist at our school's junior robotics program that meets in the evening and builds and does the VEX GO competition challenges.

Activity Name
Mini Drone Drive
Mini Drone Code
Cubelets
Makey Makey
Medical Stethoscope
Pulse Oximeter
Mathematics of Fashion Design
Aviation Iteration
Dissolving Pumpkins
AR Photo Booth
Z Space
VEX IQ Claw Game
VEX IQ Balloon Game
Chemistry/Math Cooking
OzoBots/Evo Bots
Scratch Intro
Code.org Intro-Dance Party
Color Hike

Sphero Indi
VEX Go/123
Minecraft Education
VR Goggles
Science of Sounds
QR Game
OSMO Station
Lego Playground
Sphero Bolts
Cybersecurity Game/Interland
Microscopes

Do team members try various roles on a team (designing, building, driving, programming, strategy, awards, etc.), and what do they learn from this experience?

We have learned that your first idea of what you want to do on the team doesn't always work out. All of the members of our team have tried each role at least once. We eventually each found what we love and are comfortable doing. We still have multiple roles and move from one role to another depending on the challenges we are facing. No one is ever stuck in a role. If someone decides they want to try one of the jobs again they are given the chance to work with the other people that are doing that job. Sometimes this can lead to some great discoveries when we put our brains together.



How do you believe diversity of perspective changes your robot design, your team chemistry, and even your ability to succeed?

Diversity helps our team because sometimes a new set of eyes might see something that you missed. No one is perfect and we can all learn from each other. Seeing someone else's perspective sometimes gives us new ideas that we had not thought of yet. If we all had the same personalities and skills we would all want to do the same task and jobs. Being different helps us all specialize in different things. Some of us are strong in Math and can help with building, others are good at drawing and create awesome notebook entries, some are gamers and good at driving, and on and on. All of these qualities help make us the winners that we are!

Who is your STEM role model, and why? Does this person inspire you to have a more inclusive team/program? How?

Hina Moghul - Hina was an amazing 8th grader at our school last year. She was an excellent driver. We always saw her working hard and focusing on improving her driving skills. Everytime we were in the Media Center to practice, she was there. She was an excellent example for us all. She never let us see her get upset. When problems happened she took a deep breath and tried to



come up with a solution. She also was always willing to help out the elementary teams even though she was in middle school. Hina has moved on to high school, but she still comes to support us at competitions and even helps at practice sometimes. She was never stressed out too much or quit. She encourages all of us to do the same. Hina was also Muslim, at competitions she wore her hijab with pride. She even had one with her team number on it. Hina was proud of who she was and she always encouraged all of us to be proud of who we were too. Hina was the perfect example of someone who is Girl Powered.

