



St. Mary's Academy's All-Girls Robotics

“Silly boys, robots are for boys”

May, 2019

TEAM #5493

Dear Sponsor,

St. Mary's Academy's All-Girls Robotics team, SMAbotics_AG (“All-Girl”) completed their 5th year of competition in FIRST Robotics. We could not have done this without the support of our generous sponsors -- like you!

With your support we were able to make significant changes to our robotics program and this (coming) year there are several exciting updates and new events. Since 2013, Engineering, Computer Science, Physics, and Robotics have been added to the curriculum; the faculty dedicated to STEM education has doubled; and the robotics program has created facilities to support skill development by adding a Fabrication shop, Makerspace, Computer Lab to help students create anything they could imagine. Additionally, the lower, middle, and high school divisions are currently collaborating on a STEAM Scope and Sequence, scaffolding skill development and creative engineering opportunities at all primary and secondary levels at SMA.

In 2019, we strove to accomplish ambitious goals including redesigning our robotics program, with the primary intent being the creation of a sustainable and successful program. With this focus in mind, we introduced a ten week Fall Training period designed to provide new participants training on all basic requisite skills necessary to participate successfully in FIRST robotics. The trainings are led by veteran student participants and supported by their respective mentors. We are proud to have driven ourselves to go above and beyond with inspiring women to pursue stem and take advantage of every opportunity presented to them so they can become the strong independent leaders of the next generation.

Every year, SMAbotics_AG makes it a priority to reach out to our community. This year, our team volunteered at our school’s orientation, back to school night, and much more. At the orientation, we were able to teach students from kindergarten through 12th grade how to code and drive a robot. Additionally, we have continued mentoring the St. Mary’s Academy middle school robotics team which has excelled under our leadership. Today, all of the 8th-grade girls currently on the middle school robotics team are looking to continue robotics and their STEM focus throughout HS, with many of them planning to join the HS team. We are truly grateful to have the opportunity to have an impact on our younger community.

In addition to supporting younger students interested in STEM, our team has also had a unique opportunity to influence older generations. Through connections with our sponsors, SMAbotics_AG has been invited to demo their robots at professional events such as the Society for Cable Television Engineers (SCTE) EXPO and the Women in Cable and Telecommunications (WICT), Tech It Out and was also invited to speak to Charter’s Advanced Engineering team. These opportunities opened conversations between men and women in



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engineering and technology fields about what it means to be a female pursuing STEM careers. It has also encouraged other women in technical fields by showing that if this group of young women can compete in an event which is heavily male-dominated, they can do it in their careers as well.

With all the additional things we are looking to do/grow, we need support. We ask for your consideration in continuing your financial support to our FRC team. So much of what we do cannot happen without our corporate sponsors, from the Makerspace, to FRC registration costs, to supporting our school's developing robotics/engineering/CS programs, to travel.

We sincerely value all of our sponsors— we would not have been able to build our program into what it is today without your sponsorship!