

R.E.A.F, or Robotics Engineering Aggie Females, is a student-lead project team founded by the Women in Engineering Program at Texas A&M University. Established in 2015, the team consists of students from various backgrounds and engineering disciplines to develop both technical and leadership skills outside the classroom setting. The current team of 32 students has built an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) to compete at the 2018 AUVSI RoboSub Competition in San Diego, CA.

The team began with a group of 20 underclassmen with no prior engineering background; however, our team has steadily been expanding with a heavy focus on recruiting more freshmen with no experience to give them the confidence to pursue a major in STEM. New members are trained in SolidWorks, Eagle, Python, Matlab and Git, and gain hands on experience with manual lathes, mills, and CNCs. With the entire process of creating a vehicle from scratch, our team provides challenging problems for students to overcome, allowing them to utilize problem-solving methods applicable in future engineering careers.

Our team aids in the retention of female students within Texas A&M's College of Engineering, and prides itself on inspiring young females to gain interest in STEM careers for the future with our outreach activities in Girls Scout STEM centre opening and Engineering Project Showcase. We continuously strive to prove that one's curiosity into any engineering venture should not be inhibited by inexperience.