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**TECH TREK CAMPER SELECTION PROCEDURE**

*Information for Tech Trek Branch Coordinators; please read!*

**WHY**

Tech Trek’s goal is to encourage a diverse group of young women to take math and science courses throughout high school, to motivate students to attend college and to inspire young women to consider STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, math).

**WHO-1**

When selecting your potential campers, try to look for diversity in your local schools. Tech Trek includes (*but not exclusively*) girls who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a science camp, but who have a real interest, aptitude and promise in math and science.

Middle school is when some girls begin to lose interest in STEM subjects. Tech Trek is designed to keep this from happening. However, the camp is NOT for girls who experience discipline or other problems in school. It is for girls who may need or want exposure to the thrills of STEM subjects to encourage them to continue taking those classes.

Tech Trek camps thrive when campers are from a broad demographic: economic, ethnic, educational and parental background, but have the common interest in STEM.

Some Tech Trek girls do not have straight A’s in math and science but have teachers who think they have potential and have recommended them. Our classes are rigorous, and girls must be able to keep up or they will be bored. Please do not consider girls with lower than a B- in science or math.

**WHO-2**

Remember that Tech Trek is a STEM camp, so those you choose should feel comfortable in that environment. The most important thing is that your candidate wants to come to Tech Trek, not that her parents – or grandparents - want her there. You will find more descriptions of students who do well at Tech Trek in the Teacher Flyer.

Please tell your interviewees that campers do have schoolwork at camps. There is – usually – little or no homework involved (except for fun evening puzzles) and lots of hands-on activities). Girls are expected to attend classes Monday through Friday, be attentive and participate fully in all activities. Hands-on science is fun for interested students but a disappointment for those not well prepared. It only takes one unhappy girl to have a negative influence on others.

Note: Be sure to give the candidates the correct dates of the camp(s) they would attend if selected. Final, confirmed dates for each camp will be posted on the Tech Trek website as they are available. <https://aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>

Being nominated to attend Tech Trek is a major event in these girls’ lives. It is also an opportunity for AAUW branches to use the selection process to help candidates practice for future applications and interviews. We want them all to apply to college.

When making the final selection of campers, all branches should follow these guidelines to ensure a comfortable fit between the young woman and the camp:

1. The girls are required to write an essay as part of the Student Application form.
2. Hold face-to-face *interviews* for finalists (optional) and parents (strongly suggested)
3. *Drawing names from a hat is* ***not*** *acceptable, nor does it provide the most appropriate girls for camp. Rank the candidates, then select.*

* The minimum number of candidates to interview is one more than the number of campers your branch will fund. For example, if you are funding two campers, then select a minimum of three finalists for interviews (more is better, of course).
* The interviews can be accomplished with a single panel with at least three interviewers or (where there are too many applicants) separate interview teams. Use the Tech Trek Camper Assessment Form and the Student Interview Questions 2022 (mandatory to keep the interview process consistent for all girls). Total up the numbers, and then rank the applicants.
* Having a discussion with parents is not mandatory but gives branch members an opportunity to discuss AAUW and Tech Trek. Branches can also learn the parents’ commitment to this opportunity for their daughter.

**SUGGESTED CAMPER SELECTION TIMELINE**

Please adjust to your branch’s needs.

Check the school district’s vacation schedules well ahead of time before trying to schedule interviews. Typically, school calendars can be found on its website. Completing tasks earlier than listed is advised.

Fall / Winter Branch distributes information to math and science teachers at local middle schools. You might want to include robotics and/or computer science teachers.

February: Teachers submit names of recommended students who are currently in the 7TH grade. You may limit the number each teacher or school may submit.

By Mar. 1 Branch contacts recommended students with the camper application and Parent Certification forms. The completed application, certification form and essay are returned to branch for consideration.

By end of March: Branch Selection Committee reviews applications and essays submitted and selects finalists for interview or invites all who complete application and essay for the interview, depending on number of applicants and selection committee members.

By Apr. 10 Branch Selection Committee interviews finalists. Branch Selection Committee selects recipients and notifies all applicants, in writing, of their standing (selected, selected as alternate, not selected) at the same time. Attendance Agreement and Parent Contribution forms are mailed to selected girls with their letter.

By Apr. 15 Branch submits camper names, application and signed Attendance Agreement for girls selected to camp director, as well as sending the Branch Coordinator Camper Selected Form via email.

May / June Join with other local branches and gather campers for an enjoyable get-acquainted event. Some branches have a separate but special event for alternates. Please do not invite alternates to an event that celebrates your finalists. It is not fair to them. Some branches give little gifts to their not-chosen candidates.

Summer See your campers in action. Attend the visitation day at your Tech Trek camp with other  
members of your branch. Bring branch members along to encourage enthusiasm for TT.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS: AAUW Members’ family relations (daughters, granddaughters, nieces, sisters, etc.) may, of course, attend Tech Trek, but they must go through the same procedure all other applicants do. This means they must attend a participating school, have an interest in STEM, be nominated by a teacher, complete the application, write an essay and be interviewed and selected by the selection committee. A selected camper may not attend camp under the direct supervision of a any relative. If a relative is part of the staff at camp, that camper may not be in their Dorm Group, Core Class, or where the relative would be supervising that camper.