

# 2022 Tech Trek Branch Planning Packet



## OPTIONS AND FLEXIBILITY IN 2022!

**OPTIONS:** The state board voted in mid-January to have a VIRTUAL option annually as part of the AAUW California Tech Trek program, beginning this year (2022). COVID-19 may rear its ugly head and we all will have to switch to virtual perhaps in March or April.

Right now, the plan is for in-person camps and if we go virtual, there will be a virtual camp for the entire state. Building on the very successful 2021 virtual camp, we are looking to enhance it in 2022 with additional choices for core classes. We will definitely have the Qualcomm Thinkabit<sup>™</sup> curriculum with additional core options to be announced in the near future. The virtual camps will offer the same curriculum state-wide and are scheduled for June 19-24, and July 24-29, 2022..

**FLEXIBILITY:** Another year dealing with COVID-19 is teaching us that we must be FLEXIBLE. We are planning for IN-PERSON camps and have dates confirmed and contracts in the works for the following campuses: Sonoma State, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara and Whittier College. We are waiting for confirmation from CSU Fresno and Stanford. The UCSD camp administration has decided there will be no residential camp at UCSD in 2022.

Whether or not there is a camp near you has a very large impact on branches. Since we do not anticipate any significant increase in camp capacities, **please make sure you indicate the number of campers—for both in-person (residential) and virtual—on the branch MOU.**

The MOU again asks branches to indicate how many campers they expect to sponsor for the 2022 camps—both residential and virtual options. Yes, this means some “guesstimates” by the branches for the number of reservations for both types of camps. You will need to base your decision on your available budget (the camp treasurer for the camp you send campers to can tell you the total of funds carried forward from prior years in your branch account) and your best guess as to the option your student population is more likely to select.

Many of you, as well as the camp directors, have been asking for years for an online process due to the bulk of paperwork. Based on the recommendations of the Tech Trek of the Future Task Force, the Tech Trek Committee has been reviewing software packages to best suit our needs. The new software has a user-friendly interface and is accessible from all platforms so parents will be able to easily access the camp information for their student’s camp.

Until the new software is in place (we anticipate it will be online for the camp directors’ use in obtaining all the permission necessary forms, etc., that families fill out after campers are selected), we will use the software platform (REDcap) that was introduced in 2021. We believe you will find this a robust, paperless, and easy-to-follow way of managing the Tech Trek documentation processes at your branch.

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## IMPORTANT

1. You are required to use the new online system(s) for 2022 Tech Trek for most steps of your branch processes. These include updated 2022 documents and instructions from the AAUW National Tech Trek program. Do not use any form from a previous year; all 2022 documents have a January 2022 revision date at the bottom. Many of these forms are contracts designed to protect the Tech Trek program, AAUW, camp staff, and the branches and members involved with Tech Trek.
2. Be sure the branch Tech Trek treasurer is provided with the documents in the financial folder. This will ensure that your money ends up in the right place, that your donors can take the often-crucial tax deduction, and that your branch gets credit for the 2022 deposits.
3. The teacher recommendation process will be the same as it was in 2019, with the branches making the school/teacher contacts. Distribute the nomination/recommendation Excel form to the teachers and collect the completed forms. Branch coordinators will submit the completed Excel spreadsheets with all the nominated students' information.
4. Imagine! Starting this year, you will no longer have to retain reams of camper paperwork ([see Records Retention Policy in AAUW California Tech Trek Policy and Procedures](#)). The online system will do it for you!
5. A workflow showing the sequence of steps is included in this packet. Many of the processes have been automated and completing one step in the process will initiate the next step. Branch Coordinators will be notified of activity by email and will have access to view the status of activity in their branch folder. All camper data provided online is safe and secure.

## What's New:

1. The current AAUW National ADA policy is included in the student application form and must be provided to all nominees. This is an important step to reduce risk to the Tech Trek program.
2. We have added a generic statement to the Parent Certification and Parent Agreement forms about the required MMR and COVID-19 immunizations. Informing parents as early as possible may reduce problems around immunizations later. **At a minimum, all campers and staff will be required to provide proof of vaccination (or a medical waiver) and have a negative COVID test prior to arriving at camp.** Specific details will be provided during the registration process.
3. The California state board will be setting the 2022 camperships costs at their February 2022 meeting. Because of the carryover from 2020 (when camps were planned then canceled due to COVID), we anticipate that the costs will be the same as 2019: Fresno and Davis will be **\$900**; Whittier will be **\$950**; UCSB, Stanford and Sonoma will be **\$1,000**. The anticipated virtual camp fees will be **\$500**, so raising adequate funds for "full, in-person" sponsorships will cover any campers from your branch who attend the

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virtual camp. The families will continue to make their \$50 family contribution check out to the branch, but the \$50 amount is included in the above camp costs.

4. As in past years, the 2022 Tech Trek forms are organized in folders (think filing cabinet) according to when you need them. The forms can all be found on the [aauw-ca.org](https://aauw-ca.org) website [HERE](#). The password is aauwca.
  - A. 2022 Program Outline - Read First
  - B. Getting Started
  - C. Camper Selection
  - D. Camper and Parent Agreement Forms
  - Finance and Donation

Many of the forms and documents are automatically generated by the system. They are labeled “SAMPLE” and are included so that you are aware of what is being communicated with the student and family.

If you can not find a form or document, contact Karen Manelis at [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org).

5. We do have some Tech Trek forms in Spanish; email [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org) should you need a Spanish version.

Tech Trek – whether residential or virtual -- does make a difference in the lives of our campers, and so do you. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Without you, there would be no Tech Trek program.

Good luck and thank you!

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