

# 2024 Tech Trek

## What's New **MUST READ**



### **OVER 25 YEARS OF INSPIRING GIRLS IN STEM AND GOING STRONG!**

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. Here's what's new for 2024!

Many thanks to the many of you who completed the branch requests not once but twice, and especially to those of you who took the time to attend either or both of the Branch Coordinator Peer Group sessions in October and November. **Thank you for helping us achieve the mission.**

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### **What's New for 2024?**

#### **CampDoc**

In 2023, we introduced a registration platform called CampDoc which satisfies our core requirements and provides additional benefits including an ability for the program and branch coordinators to continue to communicate with sponsored campers after camp.

Training is available at CampDoc [HERE](#) and, as needed, additional training for branch coordinators and camp staff may be provided.

You will be receiving further instructions over the next several weeks to help you better understand the process and tools, and beginning on January 26, 2024, we will be offering bi-weekly Friday office hours from 3-4 PM to answer questions. Click [HERE](#) to register. Additionally, you can request special 1:1 sessions with schools, teachers, or families at [techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org).

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#### **Nomination Process**

Branches will manage the nomination process directly with schools. It is no longer necessary to send your nomination spreadsheets to the Tech Trek program. However, an optional [nomination spreadsheet](#) is available for branch coordinators to use to track their nominations. Remember that you must maintain privacy of data for minors.

Branch members should not communicate directly with minors until the parent authorization is obtained in CampDoc.

Whether they just spend a few hours reviewing applications or are a Dorm Mom or camp counselor, all Tech Trek volunteers must complete the Volunteer Code of Conduct agreement [HERE](#). If prompted, the password is 'aauwca'.

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### Residential Camp Capacity and Allocation

We received requests for about 40% more specific residential camp spaces than capacity at the Sonoma and Davis camps. We are recommending (and planning for) the addition of two new camps in northern California, one in the Bay area (Camp Hopper) and one on the north central coast (Camp Carson). Rather than reduce the number of branch sponsorships, branches currently requesting the oversubscribed Sonoma or Davis camps have been offered the option of sending campers to one of the new camps before or during the MOU process in January.

Branches served in the past by the Santa Barbara camps will have weeks at Fresno or Whittier, one of the new camps, or virtual to send their sponsored campers to. If you have not yet notified the program director of your desired camp sponsorships and camp, you will be assigned available residential spots in near proximity to your location based on your 2023 participation and available camps, to be included in your branch participation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January.

If the number of residential campers assigned is less than requested, the branch coordinator will be given the opportunity to reassign the balance to virtual camp or other available residential camp when completing the Memorandum of Understanding. Branches may also elect not to participate in 2024 and should complete the MOU stating the same.

The table shows the current state of camper requests. Some tentative adjustments or assignments have already been made pending board approval to add Camps Hopper and Carson, in addition to second weeks at the Whittier and Fresno camps to accommodate the absence of the Santa Barbara camps. Further adjustments will be made to balance capacity, particularly with respect to oversubscriptions at Sonoma and Davis and space availability at Camps Hopper and Carson. Branch commitment is made upon submission of the MOU; camp commitment is made upon receipt of funds due March 15 at the camp where reservations are held.

Camp	Camp Dates	Capacity	Original Request	Current Request or Reassignment	Camper Fee
Camp Enigma	July	100	73	See Carson and Hopper	
Carson (CSU Monterey Bay)	July 14-20	90	-	75	\$1200
Hopper (Santa Clara U)	July 7-13	90	-	80	\$1200
Davis	July 14-20	90	122	98	\$1100
Fresno I	June 9-15	80	99	65	\$900
Fresno II	June 16-22	80	-	48	\$900
Santa Barbara Camps	on hiatus	0	147	See Fresno and Whittier	
Sonoma	June 23-29	90	129	89	\$1300
San Diego	June 23-28	120	132	120	\$1000
Whittier I	June 16-22	100	85	100	\$1200
Whittier II	June 23-29	100	-	92	\$1200
Virtual	July 21-27	120+	93	93	\$500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>960+</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>860</b>	



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## Vaccinations

At a minimum, all campers and staff will be required to provide proof of full MMR vaccination or a medical exemption. Anyone who is not up to date on Covid vaccinations per CDC guidelines will have to provide an Affirmative Declination in CampDoc after registration if selected. See AAUW California Vaccination [Policy](#). It is important to remember that we must still remain flexible in response to changes in the Covid landscape and CDC guidelines.

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## Fees

The AAUW California Board of Directors will set the 2024 camperships fees at the January 2024 meeting. 2024 campus cost increases range from 5% to 25% so branches should be prepared for an increase at most camps. Camper funds must be sent to the camp treasurer where campers have been assigned, which may mean sending payment to more than one treasurer.

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## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Process

The process has been streamlined and only branch presidents will be required to sign the MOU. They will:

- Confirm the number of camperships the branch has requested.
  - Agree to the policies set forth in the MOU.
  - Commit to fund the number of requested camperships.
  - Designate a branch coordinator to be the point of contact for the state and be responsible for decisions regarding final assignment of campers to camp.
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## Resource Materials

Promotional materials have been redesigned and updated with more options to customize them for your branch.

Materials have been created that you should find useful. In particular, a one-page bilingual flier has replaced the brochure and a new comparison of residential and virtual camps will help you determine the best fit for your students. Additional thanks go to the Palm Springs branch for sharing a single-page bilingual Frequently Asked Questions for parents. The Tech Trek Timeline is a critical resource outlining how the process will work and what steps you'll need to take over the next several months.

- [Tech Trek Timeline](#) (**Must Read**)
- [Letter to Schools](#) (Can be customized with branch information)
- [Letter to Schools](#) (Can be customized with additional information)
- [Flier for Schools and Community](#) (English and Spanish versions)
- [Residential or Virtual Camp: A Comparison](#)

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## What's New **MUST READ**



- [Camper Selection Criteria](#)
- [Tech Trek Logo](#) – (Full color)
- [Tech Trek Logo](#) – (Black and white)
- [Teacher Nomination Spreadsheet](#) (optional for branch use)

The documents can be found under Tech Trek Forms and Documents on the website [HERE](#). If prompted for a password, it is 'aauwca'. Please do not use any forms from a previous year.

Confirm that your branch treasurer has access to the needed financial documents located on the AAUW CA SPF website [HERE](#). 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 any 2023 and 2024 deposits.

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### Financial System

All camps will be adopting the new financial bookkeeping and accounting software QuickBooks Online (QBO) in 2024 following a successful pilot by the Stanford, Fresno, San Diego, and Virtual camps to determine whether it would work for our purposes. Our primary intent was to simplify various budgeting and reconciliation processes for both the camp and program leadership teams.

Training will begin for camp treasurers in February. The current branch donations process will remain the same, although funds for the new Camps Hopper and Carson should go to Gail Chesler, while funds for Santa Barbara camps should continue to go to Vanessa Otto.

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### Next Steps

For your convenience we have condensed all the key steps in the Tech Trek process into a single document, the [Tech Trek Timeline](#). Your next steps are outlined there.

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### Building A Resilient Community

Continuing into 2024 and beyond, you can expect to see significantly more focus on past campers and strengthening the community support they receive after camp through branch members, along with exploring partnerships with sister organizations, so if you are eager to work with girls in high school, get ready! Send inquiries to [techtrek-ttac@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek-ttac@aauw-ca.org).

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