A A U W   C A L I F O R N I A

TECH TREK ALUM COMMUNITY

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Welcome Back!

We're excited to bring you the third edition of the Tech Trek Alumnae Newsletter! This time, we're keeping it short and powerful - with two inspiring spotlights just for you. In this edition, you'll meet a fellow Tech Trek alumna doing amazing things in STEM, and learn about another career path that might just spark your next big interest. Whether you're exploring possibilities or chasing your passion, we hope these stories motivate and empower you. Thanks for being part of this growing community. Let's keep uplifting one another and blazing trails in STEM!

STEM Career Spotlight
Data Science

What do Data Scientists do?

Data scientists collect, clean, and analyze large sets of data to find patterns, make predictions, and help people make smart decisions. They work in all kinds of industries - like healthcare, sports, business, and tech - to solve real-world problems using data. For example, a data scientist might help a hospital predict patient needs, or help a streaming service recommend shows you'll love!

Why It's Exciting

Data science combines math, computer science, and creativity. Every day is a chance to uncover hidden stories in data and make a difference. You can work on exciting projects like building smarter apps, or helping companies be more fair and efficient. Plus, it's one of the fastest-growing and highest-paying STEM careers!

Skills & Education

To become a data scientist, you'll need skills in:

- Math & Statistics (especially algebra, probability, and data analysis)
- Programming (usually Python or R)
- Critical thinking & problem solving
- Communication (to explain your results clearly)

Most data scientists study computer science, statistics, math, or engineering in college - but many paths can lead there!

How to Get Started Now

- You don't have to wait until college to explore data science!
- Try free beginner-friendly platforms like Khan Academy, DataCamp, or Code.org
- Learn basic Python with Replit or Scratch for Data Science
- Join data challenges like Kaggle for beginners
- Look into your school's data science or coding clubs - or start one yourself!

Alumnae Spotlight
Amelia Villarete

Meet Amelia Villarete, a driven Tech Trek alumna who attended Tech Trek in 2021!

Discovering a Passion for Biology
Amelia says Tech Trek helped her discover what truly excites her in STEM. "I realized I loved biology from the strawberry DNA lab," she shares. "It helped me narrow down my passion beyond just 'science and math.'" The experience gave her a clearer sense of direction - and the confidence to pursue the fields she's most passionate about.

Medical Internships & Environmental Leadership
Currently a Medical Assisting intern at an urgent care center, Amelia is on track to receive her Medical Assistant certification - all while still in high school! She's also taken a Medical Innovations and Entrepreneurship class, where she explored the business side of healthcare.
Beyond medicine, she leads a school club focused on testing ocean water to ensure it's safe for public use - combining science and service to make a real impact.

Overcoming Challenges in STEM Spaces
In a male-dominated Architectural Design class, Amelia was one of only four girls out of forty-five students. Though the class material wasn't difficult, the environment was. "The boys acted very superior," she recalls. Amelia stood her ground and built strong friendships with other girls in the class, showing how resilience and community go hand in hand.

Advice for Fellow Alumnae
"Don't do blind community service or extracurriculars!" Amelia advises. "Use them to find your passion, then stick to it. If your activities reflect a genuine interest in a cause or field, it's easier to stand out—and to make a real difference."

Fun Fact: Amelia also loves to crochet!