**CONTACTING TEACHERS: Who/What/How (2022)**

*Be sure to give the correct dates for your camp(s)*

**Contact Schools:** You might want to write a separate letter/e-mail to teachers or the school to accompany the teacher flyer (see 2A. Email Request to Teachers in this packet). This communication would include special directions: number of students each teacher or school may recommend, deadline dates, contact information and encouragement to visit <https://aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>. Science, math, robotics, and technology teachers only, please.

**Tell teachers:** The procedure, deadlines, what is needed from them and what happens next. Be sure they know that their reasons for recommending a student must be included and that ***the******students’ academic and personal qualities listed on the Teacher Flyer are important*.** Students who do not meet these standards are frequently unhappy at camp and make others unhappy too. *Our staff is not trained to cope with challenging behaviors*. Also, we are assigned to multi-storied dorms, usually without elevators and campers will trek long distances during the day. Also let them know that there will also be a virtual option for any families who do not wish their daughter to attend an in person camp.

**Students:** Make sure the teachers explain to the girls that they should be interested in STEM, and not committed to a career in ballet or music (for example). The purpose of Tech Trek is to get more young women into STEM careers, not just to reward them with a fun summer.

**Forms:** Many teachers will prefer to fill out the forms digitally. Please use the Teacher Recommendation form included in this packet.

**Changing files:** If you want to add or change wording on any formal document that goes to the schools or campers, please **first** discuss with the State Program Director (Karen Manelis, [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)). Some documents are contracts and must not be altered. This does not include your letter to teachers; that you may alter at will.

**School eligibility:** As of 2014, your branch may approach any school in your district that you wish to include. AAUW CA also allows us to include *homeschooled students* at the branch’s discretion. Homeschooled students must go through the same selection process as public school students, including a formal STEM teacher’s recommendation.

If you work with parochial schools, other private schools or homeschooling parents,please be sure they understand AAUW’s public policy principles and priorities. They include reproductive choice, evolution, and equal pay for women, among others. (www.aauw.org) It is important that schools and parents know our women’s rights advocacy platform. Reproductive choice is not discussed at camp; evolution most likely will be. We make no apologies for that: Tech Trek is a science camp.