

Student Application Cover Letter



Dear Students and Parents:

Congratulations on being invited to apply for a sponsorship to the 2022 AAUW California Tech Trek, a STEM summer camp for girls entering 8th grade in fall 2022. The program is supported by your local branch of the American Association of University Women in California (AAUW California). STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Starting this year, campers have the opportunity to attend a local in-person camp or a virtual option. Parents will choose which option they prefer at the time of application.

Requirements to apply for Tech Trek STEM Camp:

1. Girls must be nominated by a math, science, or technology teacher at their school. Teachers provide their names to the branch, which triggers the online application process.
2. Students must be willing to attend the full week of camp. If attending an in-person camp, students will be living in a college residence hall and attending STEM classes and other camp events/field trips. If participating in the virtual camp option, students will attend core classes and presentations, and engage in group workshops and social activities online via Zoom..

Steps in the process:

1. Students complete an application which includes an essay. (February).
2. Qualified students and families are invited to a personal interview, which may be held online or in person, at the branch's discretion. (February/March)
3. Following the interviews, students will be selected for Tech Trek sponsorships. (March)

The applications will be read by members from your local AAUW branch and evaluated on the following:

- Your essay is well written and thought out. (Attention is paid to spelling and grammar, although minor errors will not affect the score. We are primarily interested in your ideas.)
- Your essay is creative and indicates that you have a genuine interest in STEM.
- Your essay is more than a list; it needs to give examples or specifics about what you would do.
- If outside sources of information are quoted or referenced, they need attribution. Formal footnotes are not required, but a student should indicate in the text that she has used an idea from someone else or give a reference for statistics or similar factual information.

Permission forms and applications will be submitted online after students are nominated.

Let your teacher know if you are having challenges completing your forms or application online or before the end of February. Your parent's or legal guardian's permission is VERY IMPORTANT.

Contact your branch coordinator if you have other questions (details below).

Each sponsorship is valued from \$500 - \$1,000, generously paid for by your AAUW branch. At the time of selection, your branch may request a \$50 family contribution, typically covered by the branch in case of hardship.

Students and their families will be notified in mid-to-late-March whether or not they are selected for an interview. Students selected to interview will be asked, among other things, what they know about Tech Trek. There are several resources to help you learn about the camp and whether it's a good fit for you: <https://aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>

Good luck. We look forward to meeting you!

(Name)

Tech Trek Coordinator

_____Branch of AAUW

Note: This opportunity includes all students who identify as female.