

Contacting Teachers



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

Contact schools: You might want to write a separate letter/email to teachers or the school to accompany the teacher flyer. 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/>. Please only contact teachers of science, math, robotics, technology or similar subjects.

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*. Explain that campers can choose between a residential camp or a virtual camp. If they select residential, they will be assigned to multistoried dorms, usually without elevators, and will walk long distances during the day. Tech Trek is compliant with current AAUW ADA policy (attached to application form) and will make reasonable accommodations on a case by case basis.

Students: The purpose of Tech Trek is to strive to inspire rising eighth grade girls with an interest and excitement in STEM to continue with that interest through high school, into college and on to a career. 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).

Forms: Please refer to the Teacher Nomination Instructions and sample Excel nomination 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 Tech Trek Program Director (Karen Manelis, 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: Your branch may offer Tech Trek to any local school at its discretion, including public, private, parochial, or charter schools, as well as to homeschooled students. However, all students must go through the same selection process, including a formal STEM teacher's recommendation.

If you work with schools other than those in the public system, please be sure teachers and parents understand AAUW's public policy principles and priorities. They include reproductive choice, evolution, and advocacy for women's rights, including equal pay, among others. Please visit AAUW National [HERE](#) for more details. Reproductive choice is not discussed at camp; evolution most likely will be. We make no apologies for that: Tech Trek is a science camp.