

Tech Trek Camper Selection Procedure



Information for Tech Trek Branch Coordinators; please read!

WHY

Tech Trek's goal is to encourage a diverse group of young women to take math and science courses throughout high school, to motivate students to attend college and to inspire young women to consider STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, math).

Middle school is the time some girls begin to lose interest in STEM subjects. Tech Trek is designed to keep this from happening.

When selecting your potential campers, try to look for diversity in your local schools. Tech Trek includes all students who identify as female who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a science camp, but who have a real interest, aptitude and promise in math and science.

Tech Trek camps thrive when campers are from a broad demographic: economic, ethnic, educational and parental background, but all with a common interest in STEM.

The camp is NOT for girls who experience discipline or other problems in school. It is for girls who may need or want exposure to the thrills of STEM subjects to encourage them to continue taking those classes.

Some Tech Trek students do not have straight A's in math and science, but have teachers who think they have potential and have recommended them. Our classes are rigorous, and students must be able to keep up or they will be bored. Please do not consider students with lower than a B- in science or math.

Remember that Tech Trek is a STEM camp, so those you choose should feel comfortable in that environment. The most important thing is that your candidate wants to come to Tech Trek, not that her parents— or grandparents—want her there. You will find more descriptions of students who do well at Tech Trek in the Teacher Flyer.

WHO FOR VIRTUAL? WHO FOR IN-PERSON?

For the virtual camp, self-starters and problem solvers tend to have more fun than those who need a lot of individual encouragement, attention, or direction. Girls who have poor internet access or a home situation that is less conducive to virtual activities may have a better experience at an in-person camp. The virtual camp is 75% hands-on activities, which are important to STEM engagement, so keep this in mind as you choose who goes where.

For candidates for an in-person camp, please tell your interviewees that campers may have project or school work at camps. There is—usually—little or no homework involved (except for fun evening puzzles or games) and a lot of hands-on activities. Girls are expected to attend classes Monday through Friday, be attentive, and participate fully in all activities. Hands-on science is fun for interested students but a disappointment for those not well prepared. It only takes one unhappy girl to have a negative influence on others.

Note: Be sure to give the candidates the correct dates of the camp(s) they would attend if selected. Final confirmed dates for each camp will be posted on the Tech Trek website as they are available.

<https://aauw-ca.org/tech-trek/>

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Being nominated to attend Tech Trek is a major event in these girls' lives. It is also an opportunity for AAUW branches to use the selection process to help candidates practice for future applications and interviews. We want them all to apply to college.

When making the final selection of campers, all branches should follow these guidelines to ensure a comfortable fit between the girl and the camp:

1. Each nominee is required to write an essay as part of the Student Application process..
2. Hold face-to-face interviews for finalists (mandatory), whether in-person or online, and parents (strongly suggested)
 - The minimum number of candidates to interview is one more than the number of campers your branch will fund. For example, if you are funding two campers, then select a minimum of three finalists for interviews (more is better, of course).
 - The interviews can be accomplished with a single panel with at least three interviewers or (where there are too many applicants) separate interview teams. Use the Tech Trek Camper Assessment Form and the Student Interview Questions 2022 (mandatory to keep the interview process consistent for all applicants). Total up the numbers, and then rank the applicants.
 - Having a discussion with parents is strongly suggested as it gives branch members an opportunity to discuss AAUW and Tech Trek. Branches can also learn the parents' commitment to this opportunity for their daughter.
 - Interviews may be held in person (preferred) or virtually, but should be consistent for all applicants.
3. Drawing names from a hat is **not** acceptable, nor does it provide the most appropriate girls for camp. Rank the candidates, then select.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS: AAUW members' family relations (daughters, granddaughters, nieces, sisters, etc.) may, of course, attend Tech Trek, but they must go through the same procedure all other applicants do. This means they must attend a participating school, have an interest in STEM, be nominated by a teacher, complete the application, write an essay and be interviewed and selected by the selection committee. A selected camper may not attend camp under the direct supervision of any relative. If a relative is part of the staff at camp, that camper may not be in their dorm group, core class, breakout group or where the relative would be supervising that camper.