

Residential or Virtual Camp?

Tech Trek and the AAUW branch will determine what camps, locations, and dates (whether residential, virtual, or both) are available to local students. Teachers will be advised of the options during the nomination process.

To help evaluate which type of camp a student might be best suited for, consider the following:

Key similarities:

Both residential and virtual camps offer:

- Hands-on STEM experiences.
- Interactions with women role models.
- Inspiring speakers from STEM fields.
- Group activities with like-minded girls.
- Activities with computers and technology.
- Field trips (off-site or virtual)
- Coaching and counseling by near-peer Tech Trek graduates.
- 1:10 adult to camper ratio.
- The role of Tech Trek Ambassador for five years.
- Life-changing awareness of personal potential and career opportunities.
- An impact! Surveys of students in both programs indicated significantly stronger interest in taking more STEM classes and a greater awareness of STEM's impact on their daily lives.

Key differences:

Camp Feature	Residential	Virtual
Housing	"Sleep away" on a college campus	Home-based
Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid and volunteer adult directors and dorm monitors • Adult and youth Tech Trek alumnae counselors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer adult "Build" and "Social" coaches • Adult and youth Tech Trek alumnae coaches
Schedule	Sunday – Friday (live-in)	Monday – Friday (9am – 9pm)
Camp Size	80-100	Unlimited
Group Size	15-20	6-8
Req. Medical Records	MMR, up to date Covid, other forms	Only ADA
Non-STEM Workshops	Varies by camp	Career workshop, college prep workshop, parent workshop

Residential camps are likely best for girls who are comfortable in social settings, able to be away from home, and interact easily with adults in person.

Virtual camps are likely best for those who are comfortable with technology, disciplined with online learning, and less experienced in social settings.