

Tech Trek Camper Applicant Assessment Form



Reviewer Instructions:

There are up to three items to consider when gauging whether a student will be a good fit for the AAUW Tech Trek program:

1. Input from the teacher nominating the student (if provided)
2. Her application (including her essay)
3. The interview

Use the guide below to evaluate each portion of the process.

NOTE: The AAUW Tech Trek program seeks to be diverse and inclusive in its outreach to support its mission of increasing the number of girls pursuing STEM studies in higher education and for their careers.

It is a priority to select girls who have less exposure to inspiring STEM programs, often due to economic disparities, and who also may have a burgeoning interest or aptitude in a STEM field.

Camper Name:

School:

Part One: Student Nomination (if written responses were provided by the teacher)

Keywords/phrases to look for in the nominations; see italics for examples:

- Student shows overall interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math:
Curiosity, aptitude, interest, constantly learning, eagerness to participate
- Student exhibits excitement to try new things
Engaged, adventurous, eager, inquisitive, daring, brave, exploratory, courageous, takes on new challenges with excitement
- Student demonstrates motivation for learning as evidenced by positive day to day behavior
Skilled, intelligent, engaged, absorbed, eager to learn, motivated, enthused, driven
- Student demonstrates a need to attend a program like Tech Trek that would benefit this student over others
Lack of opportunity, has not done something like this before, would grow because of this experience, needs new experiences
- Student is a good fit for Tech Trek
Helpful, well-behaved, engages with others, loves STEM subjects, eager for new opportunities

Tech Trek Camper Applicant Assessment Form



Based on comments:

<i>Would not recommend for Tech Trek</i>	1
<i>Would recommend for Tech Trek</i>	2
<i>Would strongly recommend for Tech Trek</i>	3

Student Nomination Score: _____

Part 2: Student Application and Essay

Total Available Points: **13**

The key ideas in the essay should be consistent with other areas of the application, which should be complete.

Use the guide below as criteria/scoring for review of the student essay:

Authentic Interest in STEM (0–3 points)

- 0: No clear interest conveyed; significant sections of application incomplete.
- 1: Mentions STEM but without depth or personal connection.
- 2: Shows interest but with fewer specifics; some evidence of curiosity.
- 3: Clearly demonstrates genuine curiosity and motivation; provides specific examples or experiences.

Personal Reflection & Voice (0–3 points)

- 0: Minimal personal contribution or unclear authorship.
- 1: Mostly general statements; limited personal insight.
- 2: Some personal reflection; voice is present but may lack detail or depth.
- 3: Strong personal voice; clear reflection on experiences, feelings, or growth; authentic and age-appropriate.

Connection to Tech Trek Goals (0–3 points)

- 0: No connection made to Tech Trek.
- 1: Mentions Tech Trek but with little explanation of fit.
- 2: Some connection made to Tech Trek but may be general or brief.
- 3: Clearly explains how Tech Trek aligns with their interests, goals, or growth; shows understanding of the program's purpose.

Clarity, Organization, and Effort (0–3 points)

- 0: Hard to follow or does not meet basic requirements.
- 1: Somewhat unclear or disorganized; limited effort.
- 2: Mostly organized; minor issues but overall coherent.
- 3: Well-organized, thoughtful, thorough; stays within the word limit; demonstrates care and effort.

Student Application and Essay Score: _____

Would you recommend this applicant be interviewed? **Yes** **No**

Tech Trek Camper Applicant Assessment Form



Part 3: Student Interview

Sample Interview Questions

Start the interview with information about AAUW and Tech Trek:

Tech Trek is a lifelong program that starts with a weeklong science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) summer camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women who are entering the eighth grade. The camps are sponsored and hosted by AAUW California as a program of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and are 100% staffed by volunteers.

Tech Trek offers two types of camps. One is residential in which students get a taste of college life by living in a residence hall on a college campus; the other is an online virtual camp from the comfort of home. Both types of camps are dynamic and offer plenty of fun, challenging activities, interactions with women who are in STEM fields, group projects, field trips, and a chance to meet other girls with similar interests. The camps are run by teachers, volunteers, and former campers who loved it enough to come back as counselors.

You should also explain the [vaccination requirements](#) at the camp should their child be selected to attend an in-person camp (MMR required, Covid must be formally declined), along with timing for requesting any accommodations under AAUW's Americans with Disabilities Act policy [HERE](#) (two weeks before camp). Failure to disclose a condition requiring accommodations that is discovered upon or after arrival could result in the camper being refused or sent home if the camp director deems the accommodation unreasonable.

Explain that there are no correct answers to any question. All candidates are being evaluated to be a good fit for the Tech Trek camp being offered.

Tech Trek Camper Applicant Assessment Form



Suggested Questions:

The following are suggested interview questions for the student:

1. Why do you think your teacher nominated you for a STEM camp?
2. Do you think you would like to have a job someday that has to do with science, technology, engineering or math? If so, what would that be?
3. When you are confronted with a new challenge at school, do you tend to back away from it or do you jump right in?
4. Do you help other kids in your class or school with their homework?
5. Have you attended any other summer camps in the past? If so, tell us about experiences at other camps you've attended. What did you like or not like?
6. Will you be attending any other camps this summer? (If student does not know, ask parent/guardian)
7. (If the branch is offering virtual:) Did you attend any virtual STEM camps during Covid or before? If you were to be selected for a virtual camp instead of in-person, do you think you would attend? (Branch may want to share some data [HERE](#) to show they have the same positive impact on STEM and college interest.)

At this point the interviewer should ask students if they have any questions about the camp.

Suggested Questions for Parents/Guardians:

1. What does it mean to you that [student's name] was selected by her teacher for Tech Trek science, technology, engineering and math camp?
2. Do you talk about math, science or engineering careers related to these fields of study in the home?
3. [If applicable to your branch] Are you aware that there is a \$50 (or other) family fee for a student to attend Tech Trek? The other costs of the camp are raised by branches or other donors who sponsor campers.
*If parents are unable to pay the fee, discuss with your branch to determine whether you can waive their fee.
4. Are you aware that your child will not be allowed to bring any electronic devices that can connect to the internet or phone services without prior permission? This includes trackers, phones, computers, and any other electronic device with these capabilities.
5. Are you aware that if your child is selected for an in-person camp she will need to be vaccinated for Mumps, Measles, and Rubella, along with COVID 19, and you will have to upload vaccination records and insurance card, or a physician-signed medical exemption for MMR and/or complete an Affirmative COVID 19 Declination?
6. Are you aware that if your child is selected for camp, you will need to inform us of any health concern requiring accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

Tech Trek Camper Applicant Assessment Form



7. Are you aware that if your child is selected for an camp she will be expected to stay in touch with the AAUW California Tech Trek community for five years following camp and to be available to promote the camp during that period?

The parent/guardian interview answers are used in conjunction with the student interview answers to evaluate whether the student is a good fit for Tech Trek.

Tech Trek Camper Applicant Assessment Form



Recommended Interview Scoring Rubric:

Points	Best - 3	Better - 2	Good - 1	Poor - 0
Student <hr/> score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is very interested in STEM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is interested in STEM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is not very interested in STEM subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has no interest in STEM subjects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is very interested in STEM career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has some interest in STEM career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not thought about a STEM career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has no interest in a career in STEM
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is not concerned about being away from family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has mild concern with being disconnected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has significant concern with being disconnected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has no interest in being disconnected for one week
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is excited to take on new challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is willing to try new challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not like to try new things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refuses to try new or hard challenges
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has/will not have the opportunity to go to a STEM camp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will attend other STEM activities but not an overnight camp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has attended many other STEM camps and is considering others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to attend another STEM camp
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would not likely attend post-secondary school without community support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would likely attend some post-secondary schooling without community support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would likely attend undergraduate without any community support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would likely attend graduate school without any community support
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands five-year ambassador commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not accept the five-year ambassador commitment

Tech Trek Camper Applicant Assessment Form



Points	Best - 3	Better - 2	Good - 1	Poor - 0
Parent/ guardian <hr/> score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is very supportive of student's STEM interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is supportive, but not much beyond grades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is not particularly supportive but did attend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropped student off; no interview
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is not concerned about their child being away for one week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has some mild concern with being disconnected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has significant concern with being disconnected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has no interest in being disconnected for one week

Optional		2	1	0
<i>If used, these Optional points must be assessed on all candidates</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neither parent is a STEM role model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One parent is a STEM role model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both parents are STEM role models
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neither parent is a college graduate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either or both parents is/are college graduate(s)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed to upload MMR record or medical exemption by physician if selected (CampDoc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not agree to upload MMR record
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed that any ADA accommodations request will be in two weeks before camp if selected (CampDoc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not agree to submit ADA request no later than two weeks before camp
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands five-year contact commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not accept the five-year contact commitment

Total Interview Score: ____

To get the total score, add candidate's scores from the nomination, essay and interview sections. Additionally, consider answers on their application and any diversity that the student may bring to the camp.

Total Score: ____

Tech Trek Camper Applicant Assessment Form



Accept student to Tech Trek

Yes, Virtual Yes, In-person No

Alternate List

Virtual alternate In-person alternate

Notes: