

2025 Tech Trek

What's New

MUST READ



OVER 25 YEARS OF INSPIRING GIRLS IN STEM AND GOING STRONG!

Tech Trek – whether residential or virtual -- does make a difference in the lives of our campers, and so do you. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Without you, there would be no Tech Trek program. Many thanks to those of you who took the time to attend the Branch Coordinator Peer Group sessions during fourth quarter 2024. **It is through you that we achieve our mission.**

What's New for 2025?

CampDoc

In 2023, we introduced a registration platform called CampDoc that satisfies our core requirements and provides additional benefits, including an ability for the program and branch coordinators to continue to communicate with sponsored campers after camp.

We now have a landing page for training [HERE](#) and will be rolling out some customized training for providers (camp leaders and branch coordinators / committee members) shortly after we go live towards the end of January.

Additionally, we will again be offering office hours every other Friday from 3-4 pm to answer questions. Click [HERE](#) to register. Additionally, you can request special sessions with schools, teachers, or families at techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org.

Nomination Process

Branches will manage the nomination process directly with schools. It is no longer necessary to send your nomination spreadsheets to the Tech Trek program. However, an optional [nomination spreadsheet](#) is available for branch coordinators to use to track their nominations. Remember that you must maintain privacy of data for minors.

Branch members should not communicate directly with minors until the parent authorization is obtained in CampDoc and the branch member has completed the Volunteer Conduct Agreement.

Whether they just spend a few hours reviewing applications or are a dorm monitor, teacher, or camp counselor, all Tech Trek volunteers must complete the Volunteer Conduct Agreement [HERE](#). If prompted, the password is 'aauwca'. You can view who in your branch has completed [HERE](#). It is sorted by date of completion. You can search the **Branch** column. Once enough people have completed the agreement, an admin will sort it by branch, then date.

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Residential Camp Capacity and Allocation

The good news is that we will be restarting the Santa Barbara camp this year for 100 campers. We now have a total in-person camp capacity of 740 across the state, plus up to 100 virtual campers. The not-so-good news is that branches requested many more than that at certain camps (Davis, Fresno, Hopper, Santa Barbara, Sonoma, and Whittier) so we allocated slots again at the oversubscribed camps. The overflow is being assigned to an undersubscribed camp, having the option to attend virtually, or not attending.

In some cases, branch requests were reassigned to a different, undersubscribed camp in similar proximity. The affected camp or program director shared this with the primary branch coordinator prior to sending the branch participation [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to the branch president. In most cases, branches are limited to sending no more than **six (6)** campers to an oversubscribed camp per branch. First priority was given to branches who participated in the camp the prior year, up to the maximum. If capacity was still available, requests from branches who did not send campers to the camp the prior year were honored. If capacity was not available, overflow was assigned to an undersubscribed camp (if known) or the branch was given the option to request assignment to virtual camp when completing the MOU.

Branches may also elect not to participate in 2025 and should complete the MOU stating the same. Further adjustments may be made to balance capacity, particularly with respect to initial oversubscriptions. Branch commitment is made upon submission of the MOU; camp commitment is made upon receipt of funds due March 15 at the camp where reservations are held.

Send any questions about the process that was used to the program director at techtrek@aauw-ca.org.

Vaccinations

At a minimum, all campers and staff will be required to provide proof of full MMR vaccination or a medical exemption. Most of the schools we contract with still require Affirmative Declarations from their students for Covid vaccination, so we will also comply. Anyone who is not up to date on Covid vaccinations per CDC guidelines will have to provide an Affirmative Declination in CampDoc after registration if selected. See AAUW California Vaccination [Policy](#). It is important to remember that we must still remain flexible in response to changes in the Covid landscape and CDC guidelines.

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Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Process

The process has been streamlined and only branch presidents will be required to sign the MOU. They will:

- Confirm the number of campships the branch has been assigned via a dropdown.
- Complete instructions to request reassigning any excess or additional campers.
- Agree to the policies set forth in the MOU.
- Commit to fund the number of requested campships and provide estimated volunteers.
- Designate ONE branch coordinator to be the point of contact for the state and be responsible for decisions regarding final assignment of campers to camp.

Resource Materials

Promotional materials are available to customize for your branch. Materials have been created that you should find useful. In particular, in 2024, a one-page bilingual flier (print double-sided) replaced the tri-fold brochure, and a new comparison of residential and virtual camps may help you determine the best fit for your students and explain to parents and applicants the value of both. Special thanks go to the Palm Springs (now Coachella Valley) Branch for the Frequently Asked Questions for parents. The Tech Trek Timeline is a critical resource outlining how the process will work and what steps you'll need to take over the next several months.

- [Tech Trek Timeline](#) (***Must Read***)
- [Letter to Schools](#) (*Can be customized with branch information*)
- [Letter to Schools](#) (*Can be customized with additional information*)
- [Flier for Schools and Community](#) (*English and Spanish versions*)
- [Residential or Virtual Camp: A Comparison](#)
- [Camper Selection Criteria](#)
- [Tech Trek Logo](#) – (*Full color*)
- [Tech Trek Logo](#) – (*Black and white*)
- [Teacher Nomination Spreadsheet](#) (*optional for branch use*)

Check frequently in January and February for website updates. Currently the documents can be found under **Tech Trek Forms and Documents** on the internal website [HERE](#). If prompted for a password, it is 'aauwca'. In the next several weeks, we will be revamping the website [HERE](#) to have one landing page where we can send everyone, so check both frequently for the improvements.

Confirm that your branch treasurer has access to the needed financial documents located on the AAUW CA SPF website [HERE](#). This will ensure that your money ends up in the right place, that your donors can take the often-crucial tax deduction, and that your branch gets credit for any 2024 and 2025 deposits.

Next Steps

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For your convenience we have condensed all the key steps in the Tech Trek process into a single document, the [Tech Trek Timeline](#). Your next steps are outlined there.

Building A Resilient Community

Continuing into 2025 and beyond, you can expect to see significantly more focus on past campers and strengthening the community support they receive after camp through branch members, along with exploring partnerships with sister organizations, so if you are eager to work with girls in high school, get ready! Send inquiries to [the Tech Trek Alum Zone \(TTAZ\)](#). Whether collaborating with like-minded organizations such as Girls, Incorporated, FIRST, or SWE, or focusing on a TTAG start-up, one of the things we know for sure is that girls in STEM need other girls and women in STEM during the critical development years to help them feel more confident long term. That time is in middle to high school - NOW!

To kickstart 2025, we are focused on three primary initiatives that will have an impact on our existing Trekkers:

1. Help start or accelerate development of local Tech Trek Alum Groups (TTAG) with advice and micro-grants.
2. Amp up our outreach to Trekkers of all ages via our web presence and social media.
3. Create a new module for virtual or in-person delivery designed to help girls in STEM find their voices.

We will share more about that once we know that most everyone is up to speed on what needs to happen between now and mid-February. Any questions you have in the meantime can be directed to the committee folks in the Alum Zone at caltaz@gmail.com, currently including Karla Rosen and Mary Barsony from the Healdsburg Branch and Deb Sabo from the Auburn Branch, along with the [Tech Trek Alum Advisor and council](#) led by Trekker Elle Peloso, originally from the San Clemente-San Juan Capistrano Branch.

Many hands (and brains) make light work, so if you are interested in getting more involved in the TTAZ or are interested in volunteering in a bigger way, the Tech Trek program is ALWAYS interested in people who like to DO, locally, at camps, and at the state level. Camp directors in training are always of interest, as are folks who like to work at the program level to improve processes and practices.

In particular, we are in the hunt for a state-level program director-in-training starting in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, so don't be afraid to raise your (or someone else's) hand when applications open up for state-level committee roles in the next few months! Or drop a line to techtrek@aauw-ca.org to see what it's all about!

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January 2025

