

# 2026 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 our volunteers. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Without all of you, there would be no Tech Trek program. Many thanks to those of you who take the time to attend the Branch Coordinator Peer Group sessions, especially those who have been doing it for a few years. ***It is through our community of volunteers and donors that we achieve our mission.***

Please feel free to share relevant information with teachers as appropriate, keeping in mind privacy regulations. Teachers may complete the Volunteer Conduct Agreement, but it is not required. **Do not cross-share Personal Identification Information (PII) with other families or schools.** Use BCC on emails to multiple recipients. Better yet, once the parent creates an account in CampDoc, use that to communicate for privacy reasons.

## What's New for 2026?

### ***CampDoc Updates***

CampDoc is the tool that satisfies our core requirements for tracking camper and staff applications and registration. It provides an additional benefit in its ability to continue communication with sponsored campers after registration and beyond camp. This year, we will be tweaking some of the forms and questions for clarity and improvements.

We have a landing page for CampDoc training [HERE](#) (password AAUWtechtrekCA), including customized training for providers (camp leaders and branch coordinators/ committee members). There will be several opportunities for Provider Zoom sessions in the next quarter to introduce changes and general training. Send questions to Linda Gidlund, Tech Trek CampDoc Administrator, at [techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org).

Additionally, we will again be offering office hours every other Friday from 3-4 pm to answer questions. Click [HERE](#) to register. Branch coordinators may also request CampDoc-specific sessions with schools, teachers, or families at [techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org).

### ***Nomination Process***

Branch coordinators manage the nomination process directly with schools. A [nomination spreadsheet](#) is available for branch coordinators to use to track their nominations, or they can have nominators use the form [HERE](#).

Assuming teachers enter the branch coordinator's email correctly, they should receive a copy of the submission at the email address they entered. Branch coordinators can also access the responses directly [HERE](#), and filter by branch for download and offline editing to send to selection committee members.

# 2026 Tech Trek What's New



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Remember to always maintain data privacy for PII, especially for minors.

**Branch members should not communicate individually with minors until the parent's permission is completed in CampDoc and the branch member has completed the **Volunteer Conduct Agreement (VCA)**.**

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'.

New this year, local Tech Trek Alum group (TTAG) advisors are included in the volunteers who must complete the VCA. Additionally, any Tech Trek volunteer who expects to spend more than 16 hours a month or 32 hours a year with minors must also complete additional training and background checks. Contact [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org) for further details.

Track who in a branch has completed the VCA [HERE](#). It is sorted by date of completion. Filter by clicking the down arrow in the Branch column header and the **Branch** column.

### ***Residential Camp Capacity and Allocation***

The good news is that we have a total residential or in-person camp capacity of 740 across the state, plus up to 100 virtual campers; in 2025, 780 campers were registered, with 752 completing, 700 of whom were at residential camps. The not-so-good news is that branches typically request more than that at certain in-person camps, so we may have to allocate camper slots again at any oversubscribed camps.

If your branch has not submitted a camper request yet, please do so by December 15 [HERE](#). It also asks for volunteer estimates (branch members and alums; camp and TTAG) and details of alum engagement efforts.

Any requests that exceed the allocated amount (typically 5 or 6, but may be camp-specific) will be assigned in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to an undersubscribed camp in branch proximity or have the option to attend virtually. MOUs with assignment details are sent to the branch president in January, to be returned by February 15. Branch coordinators will be informed in advance if that is the case, before the MOU goes out.

Priority at a camp is typically given to branches that sponsored campers in 2025, up to the maximum allocation at the particular camp. If capacity is still available, requests from branches that did not send campers to the specific camp the prior year are considered.

Branches may elect not to participate in 2026 and should still complete the MOU sent in January, stating the same. Branch commitment is made upon submission of the MOU; camps commit to the MOU reservations when funds are received (due March 15) at the camps where reservations are held.

The form that should accompany any deposits being mailed is [HERE](#) and on the webpage under Financial

# 2026 Tech Trek What's New



## **MUST READ**

Documents. Send checks to the address shown in the second tab and include a hard copy in the envelope with the check. Please also email a copy to the camp treasurer to let her know it is coming.

If branch funds are held in a single camp account but campers are sent to multiple camps, request the treasurer to transfer funds to cover reservations at other camps.

Send any questions about the allocation process to the program director at [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org).

### ***Vaccinations***

At a minimum, all campers and staff must have and upload proof of current Mumps, Measles, and Rubella (MMR) vaccinations or a medical exemption in CampDoc. Proof consists of a doctor's or school form with the relevant vaccination dates or exemption details.

Even though we are post-pandemic for COVID-19, we must continue to be flexible in response to changes in the landscape and CDC guidelines. Current COVID-19 vaccinations are still strongly encouraged this year, but may be waived with the Affirmative Declination form in CampDoc. Anyone current will upload proof; anyone who is not current on their COVID-19 vaccinations (2025-2026 series available after September 2025) will have to provide an Affirmative Declination in CampDoc after registration if selected.

See AAUW California [Vaccination Policy](#) for more details and access to the Medical Exemption form if needed for an MMR exemption.

### ***Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Process***

The process has been streamlined, and only branch presidents are required to sign the MOU. In January, they will:

- Confirm the number of camperships the branch has been assigned.
- Complete instructions to request reassigning campers.
- Agree to the policies referenced in the MOU.
- Commit to fund the number of requested camperships and provide estimated volunteers.
- Designate ONE branch coordinator to be the point of contact for the state and be responsible for decisions regarding any final assignment of campers to camp.

The branch coordinator who is designated by the president in the MOU will be copied on their submission and will receive a notification via CampDoc with the form link once it is available. It may be helpful to let them know those details BEFORE the MOU hits their Inbox in January.

### ***Resource Materials***

Promotional materials are available to customize on the webpage [HERE](#). It was updated in 2025 to segment the content by stakeholders and include direct links to the camps.

Some of the resources more commonly used by branch coordinators are listed below. Materials have been created that many find useful, including a one-page bilingual flyer (print double-sided) that can be customized

# 2026 Tech Trek What's New



## MUST READ

with branch details, a comparison of residential and virtual camps to help determine the best fit for students, and to explain to parents and applicants the value of both types of camps, plus spaces for finding out more about alum engagement and volunteering. The Tech Trek Timeline is a critical resource outlining how the process will work and what steps will need to be taken 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*)
- [Flyer 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. Media is currently being created for educators that shares the Tech Trek mission and guidance on camper selection. Alums and volunteers are next! If prompted for a password, it is 'aauwca'.

Confirm that the branch treasurer has access to other needed shared documents [HERE](#), under Information for Branch Coordinators >> Where can I find that form? >> Financial Documents.

Did you know that branches can help save us all some time in getting electronics donations over \$250 to the right place by having donors complete a [Designated Donor \(DD\) form](#) at the same time as completing the donation? This will ensure that donors can take the often-crucial tax deduction and that branches get appropriate credit for any deposits made.

FYI, donations over \$250 must be acknowledged by the 501(c)(3) entity that the funds were donated to, in this case, AAUW California Special Projects Fund (SPF), while those under \$250 should be acknowledged by the branch. Submitting the DD form puts all that information in one place.

## **Next Steps**

For convenience, all the key steps in the Tech Trek process are condensed into a single framework document, the [Tech Trek Timeline](#). It is not intended to be overly prescriptive, rather to provide suggestions based on what works across the state, but may vary from branch to branch based on school calendars, etc.

The expectation is that branch coordinators lead the nomination and selection process until about May 1, then hand it off to the camp directors once campers have permission to attend after selection. Branches are 'on the hook' for five years along with camper families, since that is what branches agree to in the MOU, but the camp directors will lead from that point forward, with branch support.

# 2026 Tech Trek What's New

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### Building A Resilient Community

Continuing into 2026 and beyond, branches 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.

If your branch needs some help getting started on working with girls in high school, visit [the Tech Trek Alum Zone \(TTAZ\)](#). Whether collaborating with like-minded organizations such as Girls, Inc., 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!

We spent most of 2025 sharing the mission of TTAZ and introduced the Tech Trek Alum Program (TTAP) Microfunding project (details and application at the bottom of the TTAZ page), providing small grants to cover expenses associated with building a thriving joint alum and branch member community.

In addition to that initiative for the foreseeable future, we will be starting some alum research and will be looking for volunteers to support that lift using a new alum database tool currently in the early implementation phase. CampDoc was never intended to be the repository for alumna data, rather an application and registration tool that would feed the relevant data to a repository that could be periodically easily updated by users through a portal.

This may enable us to improve our valid alum email % two years out of camp to something better than 60%, and 10 years out to better than 40%. At least 25% of valid emails are still only parents' in high school.

Many hands (and brains) make light work, so if interested in getting more involved in the TTAZ or 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 this 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](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org) to see what it's all about!

