

Tech Trek

Summer Science Camp



Tech Trek is AAUW California's summer science program that inspires girls entering the 8th grade to pursue careers in STEM fields — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The first Tech Trek camp was held the summer of 1998 at Stanford University. Since then the program has expanded to include camps at Irvine, Davis, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Fresno, Whittier, and Sonoma. Each year the California branches of AAUW send over 800 girls to Tech Trek camps.

“Camp” without really camping AAUW Laguna Beach selects girls from Thurston Middle School in Laguna Beach to go to Tech Trek at the University of California at either Irvine or San Diego. The girls attend a week-long science program on campus where they live the life of a college student under the careful supervision of camp staff. The Tech Trek experience exposes the campers to math and science at a critical time in their lives when they are making important decisions about their future career paths.

Hands-on Science Hands-on activities in core classes, labs and field trips at Tech Trek camps help to make math and science *fun* along with being educational. Evening programs in fields such as astronomy, engineering, robotics, marine biology and environmental studies enhance their learning experience. The girls also have the opportunity to interact with professional women role models who work in science, mathematics, computers and other exciting technical professions.

Selection Process AAUW Laguna Beach works closely with Thurston Middle School teachers to identify students *who will benefit most* from the experience. Each student completes an application and writes an essay. AAUW branch members then interview the students and select girls to attend the camp.

Cost and Funding

It costs \$850 to send one girl to Tech Trek for a week including all coursework, labs, field trips, room and board. The funds to cover these costs come from branch fundraising events and from private, corporate and institutional donations to the non-profit AAUW Laguna Beach Foundation.



LAGUNA BEACH BRANCH
www.aauw-lagunabeach.org

Become a Sponsor If you wish to sponsor one or more girls to attend Tech Trek or need more information, please contact the AAUW Laguna Beach Tech Trek Coordinators Elaine Lawson at 949.494.9963 or Barbara Hamkalo at 949.494.4185, or email aauw-lb@cox.net.

Tech Trek Activities

- ♦ Live in dorms on campus. Experience campus life
- ♦ Core classes in Biology, Geology, Physiology, Chemistry, Physics attended daily
- ♦ Rotating labs designed to explore individual specialties more deeply
- ♦ Evening programs in astronomy, engineering, marine biology, and environmental studies
- ♦ Science-related field trips
- ♦ Opportunities to interface with professional women in science and technology
- ♦ Introduction to potential STEM career areas