

Tech Trek

Summer Science Camp



Tech Trek is AAUW California's summer science program that encourages girls entering the 8th grade to pursue careers in technology. The first Tech Trek camp was held the summer of 1998 at Stanford University. Since then the program has expanded to include camps at Fresno, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Whittier, and Mills College. Each year the California branches of American Association of University Women sends over 500 girls to its 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 San Diego. The girls attend a week-long science program on the UCSD 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, marine biology and environmental studies enhance their learning experience. The girls also have the opportunity to interact with 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.



American
Association of
University
Women

Laguna Beach Branch
www.aauw-lagunabeach.org

Tech Trek at UCSD

- ◆ Live in dorm on UCSD Campus. Experience campus life
- ◆ Core classes in science and math
- ◆ Mini-labs and short courses: Veterinary science, DNA extraction, forensic sciences, making polymers, oil spill clean-up, math games, gemology
- ◆ Special project in computer robotics
- ◆ Marine Biology boat trip
- ◆ Snorkeling, sports clinics
- ◆ Ingenuity Night, Bat Biology, astronomy, talent shows, "Build It" Fairs
- ◆ Meet professional women in science and technology

Cost and Funding It costs \$750 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 and corporate donations to the non-profit AAUW Laguna Beach Foundation.

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 Peggie Thomas at 949.499.1817, or email aauw-lb@cox.net.