

# What Does your Dream Tech Trek Program Look Like - BRANCH COORD/TREASURERS

## Visioning Board

Type of Camp	Votes
<p>Jane Krause, totally agree a significant part of the program is being on a college campus in a residential progrma.</p> <p>Beverly Schlegel: residential. I agree M.Buchner.</p> <p>I agree --- Karelle Cornwell</p> <p>I agree -- Cynthia Miller. There is SO much more learning and impact with a residential program.</p> <p>Beth Taylor- A residential camp is one of the key components to the experience. The social aspects are tremendous. I can't tell you how many of our campers have come back from camp inspired by the fact that they met so many like minded girls with an interest in STEM. It made a difference in the girls choosing to continue in STEM knowing that there are other girls doing the same. You can't get that experience through virtual camp.</p> <p>I agree...W Clevenger/Lompoc-Vandenberg me, too Celia La Palma-Cer Absolutely it needs to be residential and on a college campus. That is a major differentiator for TT. A Massey</p>	5
<p>I think it should remain residential for 5-7 days. It's important for students to experience a college campus. The format seems to be working, with project-based activities during the day and college/career activities in the evening. -Valerie Armstrong/Long Beach, W. Clevenger/Lompoc-Vandenberg, Cushman/OML Dorothy Skjonsby/Humboldt</p>	5
<p>M.Buchner a 1 week camp is good for the rising 8th grader and for volunteers. a larger or longer camp will drive the price up, and the need Wynn Clevenger agrees A Massey agrees</p>	2
<p>Pat Fletcher - Staying on a college campus is important, especially for girls who may not have had much thought to college prior. 5 -7 days is good.</p> <p>Joe DesBarres Igniting the possibility of college where it had not existed is an effect of residential camp on campus. girls have made a decision to strive to go to college after attending one of the camps. Dorothy Skjonsby Humboldt</p>	1
<p>differentiation from other science camps? residential? virtual? hybrid? "traveling circus"? larger? smaller? shorter? longer? more frequent? college experience?</p>	0
<p>Karelle Cornwell/Beth Taylor - 1 week is a good amount of time, not too long, not too short</p>	0
<p>Current camp size is about 70-80 girls. Good size - larger would be more difficult to manage. Cushman/OML</p> <p>Whittier is 90 and it works Celia S</p>	0

college campus, multiple locations, residential - Celia LaP-C	0
Santa Cruz- Alums would like one week on college campus, "highlight of my life" , "Away from home, but not too long, or far."	0
TT camp is/should be more than just STEM projects: 1. life skills, confidence, 2.edu. HS, College paths, course. 3. Careers - new combo fields, role models. College campus experience is critical. Hwang/SR	0
Duration could be slightly shorter 4-5 days to keep costs down and deal with short attention spans.	0
E. Benoit: strongly prefer in-person residential camp on a college campus. Use virtual experiences only when necessary. "Travel Circus" = OK	0
marielle boortz- regional camps best...shouldn't be too long of a drive for campers (and camp staff/volunteers) to get to camp.	0
Marielle Boortz- residential camps on college campus. just add no more than a few virtual classes to offer courses by experts who aren't local/not feasible to travel. creates opportunity to have international experts, e.g.	0
As a Dorm Mom, I received lots of positive feedback with residential camp at UCSD. Girls feel "grown up" being on campus. Dillon/PP	0
Continue virtual camp with residential camp after pandemic - to reach larger audience. Dillon/PP	0
Nancy Adams - The college environment is sometimes the most important part of the experience for a camper. Meeting other like-minded girls and professional women in person is a major factor in inspiring the girls. There are lots of virtual camps and programs available, but most focus on a single topic. TT girls are exposed to types of STEM they never dreamed of before the camps.	0
An on college campus experience may be one of the most important parts of this camps. If we change to virtual we will not be different.	0
Residential camp on a college campus stimulates the girls' aspiration to attend college. A one week camp experience provides more in-depth study of core classes and exposure to other STEM related fields. Tech Trek alumnae express significance of living on a campus and having roommates.	0

<b>Campers</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Jane Krause - agree rising 8th graders is a great age to get the girls more interested in STEM classes. Karelle Cornwell: rising female 8th graders. W Clevenger/Lompoc-Vandenberg	3

<p>Pat Fletcher - encouraging girls who are economically disadvantaged is great. Maybe state could set a goal of at least 50% be in this category.  Joe DesBarres Equity ought to push us towards those students who would otherwise not have this opportunity.  Letha Saldanha: Could not agree more</p>	3
<p>Good interviewing is one of the big success to selecting the girls for camp. Face to face interviewing allows you to get to know the girls  Face to face interview by at least three branch members is crucial. Celia LaP-Cer</p>	1
	1
<p>Cynthia Miller: Campers must have a strong interest in STEM and really want to be at camp. Otherwise their attitude causes a problem with other girls.</p>	1
<p>Wynn Clevenger: Continue with camper selection based on currently identified qualities which are best evaluated by teacher nomination.  Joe Des barres I'd like a window at least for self-nominating students.  Teachers, as humans, have blinders which may exclude a student from teacher nomination.</p>	1
<p>Keep the camps only girls and those that identify as girls. Cushman/OML</p>	1
<p>Self-nomination by itself is a bad idea- can end up a clique. Some teachers ask who is interested and then nominate from that subset.</p>	1
<p>Dorothy Skjonsby I know that it creates extra work for the teachers to nominate, but they do know the students best.  Yes, Celia LaP-Cer  We ask teachers to nominate, then guidance counselors to select final applications for branch to interview.  Dillon/PP</p>	1
<p>marielle boortz- self nomination could result in under-representation of girls from less advantaged communities. also places increased burden on branches to advertise and promote the application process</p>	1

<p>Nancy Adams - Tech Trek was formed for rising eighth grade girls because they are at a vulnerable academic stage in life. No change is appropriate In order that appropriate residential facilities can be provided, all campers should identify as female.</p> <p>In our area, and particularly in these times of increased awareness of the racial and economic divisions in this country, we need to be more aggressive in making the camps available to otherwise underserved communities. It's nice to have the option of Spanish-language materials for the parents, but in Oakland the school districts provide parent materials in five additional languages. The state should have more inclusive materials available for those areas that need it.</p> <p>Having the campers nominated by teachers is key; we get a lot of girls who would never have looked for such an opportunity. Girls whose families can afford to send them to other summer programs have options; we offer opportunities to girls who don't.</p>	0
<p>gender? age? target student? selection process? (nominated by teachers only? self-nomination? branch involvement in selection? standardize the selection process? ) diversity? expectations of behavior? expectations of parents? disciplinary processes?</p>	0
<p>Beverly Schlegel: expectations of parents; expectations for girls ( code of conduct); discipline procedures</p> <p>Girls have come back realizing they didn't need their phones and enjoyed the evening activities. Dorothy Skjonsby Humboldt</p>	0
<p>Rising 8th graders who have not already chosen H.S. classes and opted out of stem.</p>	0
<p>Cynthia Miller: Let's not forget to think about our counselors. Coming back to camp as a counselor is a powerful experience!</p>	0
<p>Guidance on how to handle behavior issues would be helpful. Having the girl write a behavioral contract for herself usually works well.</p>	0
<p>Santa Cruz, Alums feel best for girls only, 7th and 8th graders, but not older.</p>	0
<p>Suggest focus on girls without exposure to wonders of STEM, disadvantaged, with potential but not necessarily decided on STEM careers. Hwang/SR</p>	0
<p>E. Benoit: Recruit/select from low-income schools. Require girls to share hobbies &amp; extra-curricular activities in application paragraph. In</p>	0
<p>Marielle Boortz- girls only. Important for future success in male dominated STEM careers that girls learn how to network/support each other.</p>	0

Marielle Boortz-Girls just finishing 7th grade. So that they are encouraged to continue taking college-prep math and science courses through high school. if dont, will have to take time and catch up in college, also delays their ability to take college engineering classes if don't have the math. Doing so also could lead to ability to take college level math in high school	0
Roberta Montgomery - The nomination and selection needs diversity of schools and students.. Therefore need to be able to provide help with application process (technology and language issues)	0
Roberta Montgomery - teacher nominations and sponsorships what separates TT from other STEM camps.	0
Continue camp for girls entering 8th grade allows them a year to explore STEM subjects before registering for high school classes. Campers should represent diversity in culture, exposure to STEM subjects, and types of experiences.	0

<b>Administration</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Pat Fletcher - I like having nominations/applications online but branches need more visibility to what has been sent and what has been received. It would be great to have an online page where that information is visible all together rather than separate links for each school and camper.	1
Santa Cruz, no Self Nomination, please!!! Teachers are best at finding the girls with interest and desire.  Increase emphasis on recruiting for racial and ethnic diversity and including more girls from less advantaged backgrounds.  More info about marketing to schools Minimum Nat'l input, rules and regulations	1
marielle boortz- required training should be fit to purpose. don't make branch TT committee members who won't work at the camp read policies, manuals, etc that mainly apply to camp staff and volunteers. should be separate required training for camp staff vs branch committee members.	1
Roberta Montgomery - Have TT alumnae database with automatic process to generate from camper selection info . The DB would have contact update processes to keep the data current. DB could be used to communicate to and track alumnae and as source for counselors, teachers, professional women's night	0
relationship with State? National? branch involvement? level of autonomy? personnel? (recruitment? job descriptions? leadership hierarchy? selection criteria? performance reviews? term limits? succession planning? paid vs. volunteer? ) online processes? paperwork vs. paperless?	0

M.Buchner branches keep up their work choosing and supporting campers. Volunteers from branches have been amazing. This connects campers	0
Cynthia Miller: It is a lot of work to select students, particularly for branches with a lot of schools. I agree in that we have 11 schools and generally only 9 spaces, but the work pays off. I would NOT want to give up in person interviews. A Massey	0
I wonder if the amount of spots a branch receives can be commensurate with the number of middle schools in the branch's area. For example, Long Beach is typically allotted 8-10 spots, but we have over 20 middle schools. -Valerie Armstrong/Long Beach  Suggestion for this situation: select from different schools in alternating years. From one district that we choose from there are 6 ms, but we only ask for nominations from the 3 Title I schools. Celia LaP-Cer	0
Cynthia Miller: We worry a lot about how to make the selection of girls "fair" and not get us sued. What can we do to make this easier?	0
Cynthia Miller: Counter consideration to the idea of allocating spots at camp based on number of schools -- some branches just don't have the money to send more girls. And some branches donate so much volunteer time and energy while others do very little. So should the branches that help so much get extra slots?	0
Dorothy Skjonsby Humboldt It is important to realize that each state might have different guidelines about students and camping. There is a	0
Dorothy Skjonsby (cont.) a variety of education codes in different states so it is important that National be aware of this. One size does not fit all in this type of program.	0
Branches need some autonomy for their process for getting nominations and selecting campers as well as how applications are submitted on-line vs paper. Cushman/OML	0
Very helpful to have brochures or standard info about the camp.	0
Teachers, nurses and camp directors need to be paid, dorm moms not so much. Cushman/oml	0
marielle boortz- branches need flexibility in the forms and procedures. some things need to be optional, e.g., we just ask teachers for student contact info so asking for more deters teachers from making any nominations. give us a choice of essay questions to use in the application. allow us to enter nomination info not require the teachers to.	0
More publicity and marketing within AAUW and Corporate.No standardized class content: camps need autonomy to meet local student needs.	0

Roberta Montgomery - unfortunately there is turnover in our schools (principal, teachers) Need good (short, specific) communications to educate and get teachers to make nominations.	0
Roberta Montgomery - have mentors for TT alumnae to help with class selection, college application, scholarship application, STEM goals through high school and into college	0
Roberta Montgomery - need close association with schools, nominations and selection. schools/teachers will not continue to make nominations if no one is ever selected from their school.	0
Nancy Adams I would suggest simplifying the administrative procedures and resisting the urge to create a paperless process by allowing application materials to be completed in ink on paper. Students and their parents should not be required to jump through technical hoops in order to apply. A great many girls who might otherwise attend in our area have minimal or no access to appropriate technology in their homes.	0
The application system has become too complex. It needs to be 100% on line.	0
In-person interviews with nominated girls need to continue. Applications can be made online. Member of branch Tech Trek committee might be needed to assist with the application.	0

<b>Curriculum</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Professional women's night introducing girls to a variety of careers is always an eye-opener for the girls and a success. Cushman/OML	4
Update curriculum to focus on areas where women continue to lag -- computer science, math, engineering, physics. Women are now half of students in medical/dental programs, more than half in vet programs, high numbers in environmental science and biology. W. Clevenger, I agree. Letha Saldanha: Could not agree more--focus should be on eng/computer sc/ AI/Data science where the real inequity is	2
No homework; the camp days are long enough already. Dillon/PP	2
The Thursday evening dinner is a big plus. The girls like the aspect of meeting women in the field of STEM and the ability to ask them questions in a small group setting. Dorothy Skjonsby Humboldt	2
Absolutely STEM. Do not add the A. Celia LaP-Cer	2
Beverly Schlegel: team building; STEAM;	1

<p>Cynthia Miller: We need to take a hard look at what has changed with STEM curriculum in middle school. Extracting DNA from a strawberry, for example, is now a pretty common lab at school. Another example: many kids learn SCRATCH programming at school.</p> <p>Joe DesBarres We must strive to always be a stretch from the school experience.</p> <p>Letha Saldanha: Curriculum should be updated every year to stay a step ahead in preparing the STEMers of the future. In the higher socio communities, many do coding, Robotics, etc. These girls prefer stuff like Forensics because it is 'fun' ; but is that what we want to do. AI, Data Science should be in our curriculum now. But then, how do we meet the requirements of the lower socio girls who may have not had these exposures to basics like coding</p>	1
	1
<p>Collaborate with local tech and engineering companies to create curriculum that is current and relevant.</p> <p>-Valerie Armstrong/Long Beach</p> <p>Letha Saldanha: To truly prepare girls for the real world of STEM we need more engagement with Corporate real world for the curriculum</p>	1
<p>Need to focus on STEM, not STEAM. Keep emphasis on engineering, physics, forensics, environmental sci, add chemistry or biotechnology.</p> <p>OML</p>	1
<p>Santa Cruz, STEM, not STEAM, wants science, not dilute with STEAM. Liked group discussions.</p> <p>Santa Cruz, If move to digital or hybrid, program design should be compatible with the tech the girls have available. (We did not participate in the Virtual Camp as there was uncertainty of compatibility with Chromebooks, main tool available to our girls.)</p> <p>Leadership development skills; field trips; more structured curriculum in certain areas (math?), less in others (hands on activities?)</p>	1
<p>The basic premise of camp is to enrich the girls' middle school STEM exposures and experiences. So in order make sure camp curriculum is not identical to or duplicates middle school classes, State Standards for Grades 7 &amp; 8t should be reviewed and teachers consulted.</p>	1
<p>Focus on STEM, not STEAM. Interest in adding other science classes when possible. Dillon/PP</p>	1
<p>development and evaluation of curriculum? standardized curriculum? STEM or STEAM? other skills, like leadership? more structure? less structure? level of technology (both used and taught)? delivery of content? (workshops? field trips? self-directed learning? homework?</p>	0

<p>No standardized curriculum. Directors need to use regional contacts, play to their strengths in the area. STEM still lacks women's input/M. Buchner. I agree --- Karelle Cornwell Joe Desbarres this "lack of women's input" requires explanation and evidence.</p>	0
<p>Beth Taylor- consider reaching out to professional organizations in STEM to see what they suggest or if they would like to contribute. Examples of organizations, Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Women in Transportation, American Society of Civil Engineers, etc. SWE puts on a weekend event for high school girls in the Sacramento area that is fantastic.</p>	0
<p>Classes in computer sci and robotics must be at the level of the girls, since many girls take classes in these. Girls need to be challenged</p>	0
<p>The focus should be STEM not STEAM. I'd like to see the science expanded to include physics and medical science. We get a lot of interest in medical fields through another program our branch sponsors. A Massey</p>	0
<p>Leadership is important but it could be added as a component of other activities. I do not mind some standardization but there MUST be room for personalization.</p>	0
<p>Pat Fletcher (comments from branch member/counselor): Give the girls free time or a co-operative project so they can interact, make friends. NO HOMEWORK (too much like school) as well as limiting interactions. Science orientation and leadership are both important. Structured workshops, field trips and guest lectures were all highlights. Important to get community publicity.</p>	0
<p>Match experienced teacher with college student in core classes. Offer physics, chemistry, AI &amp; bio-tech. Feature college campus art in an afternoon session. Emphasize leadership &amp; team-building experiences.</p>	0
<p>Retain core class idea and no class over 16 girls max. Upgrade academic content &amp; include many field trips &amp; incorporate out-door learning</p>	0
<p>marielle boertz- offer workshops/courses that are growing fields with great opportunities, eg., biosciences, medicine, bioengineering, genetics, data analytics. keep TT current with current and emerging technologies and sciences</p>	0
<p>marielle boertz- give choice of core classes but require taking classes outside the core. girls may discover they love a field that they had</p>	0
<p>Fohner-Gilroy. Not everyone wants a career of coding, even though it is lucrative. Broad career exposure is essential.</p>	0
<p>Fohner--Mad City money is so beneficial. How to Interview, how to present, other practical skills are important</p>	0

Sue Jennings-Focus equally on math. Make sure science focus is not on areas well represented by women like biology or physicians.	0
Nancy Adams -Tech Trek is for STEM learning; there are many Fine Arts camps for those who want to attend them. Highest praise from Tech Trek alumnae goes to the group projects, field trips, and alumni speakers. Keep those.	0

<b>Finance</b>	<b>Votes</b>
M.Buchner Hire a grant writer for corporate contributions or Foundation grants to keep price stable at 1,000.00 per camper. The costs keep + W Clevenger, I agree.	1
Santa Cruz, Fundraising a challenge in an aging branch. We rely on branch members for supporting Tech Trek and one annual fundraiser, raffle. We have many believers in our branch!  More info about marketing to schools Minimum Nat'l input, rules and regulations	1
affordability? fundraising? financial support from State? National? SPF? branch treasurer - duties and processes? camp treasurer - duties and processes? budgets? Joe DesBarres affordability will always be a consideration. We ask relatively little of cost sharing from parents so that may be a place to study and survey always ensuring attendance despite parental financial condition.	0
Cynthia Miller: Need to carefully think about trade off of cost of camp vs. what we can do at camp (things like field trips are very expensive, we rely a LOT on volunteers, etc.) Also, renting/buying computers is expensive.	0
Actively seek Grant funds from corporate, high-tech & big donors: it is available! Use grants for field trips and tech equipment. Funders have gender discrimination rules: consider adding male students. Keep all funds in the CA camp budgets don't share nationally. Ask parents to pay 10% of camp costs for better "buy in".	0
marielle boortz- national and state orgs should have roles in getting grants/fundraising to support the camps vs putting all the burden on camp directors. branches should still have to fundraise to sponsor their selected campers. but having national and state help w funding the camps should help keep branches from having to pay ever increasing/too high camp fee per camper.	0
Fohner-Gilroy How many campers do camps need to break even or to generously cover all costs?	0
Sue Jennings Provide Quick Books to camp directors /treasurers so data is online and accessible. Currently vouchers must be input each year and deposits consolidated.	0

Sue Jennings-Camps that run on less than the camper fees should be able to allocate money back to the branches for future camperships after expenses have been paid. Branch camps fees should not subsidize other camps.	0
Job descriptions and pay need to be flexible. Some teachers run camp and live on campus. Other teachers just teach their core class.	0
Nancy Adams - Our main concern with Finance is the \$50 fee asked of each family. This seems a small amount and a small matter, but it causes consternation in some families and consumes an inordinate amount of time in interviews. Having the branches pay 100% of the cost is a small hurdle for the branches.	0
Continue branch fundraising for Tech Trek camp. Invite sponsorship by local businesses, especially in STEM related companies. Encourage branch members to sponsor a girl and become a mentor in her educational journey.	0

<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Santa Cruz County Camp alums feel Thank you notes good, but actually enjoy presenting to Branch about camp experience.  Branches need help from state on tracking campers for five years.	1
Have the girls evaluate their experiences. Follow the girls to see how effective the experience is in keeping girls in math and science.	1
marielle boertz- our branch loves getting thank you notes from the girls. and requiring girls to write them gives them practice and encouragement to write thank you notes...something that i dont think is done as much now as in the past.	1
marielle boertz- every level in TT process (camp, branch, state, etc) should do look back on just completed year to id things to continue doing and things to improve.	1
"lessons learned" debriefs? formal reports? evaluations/surveys? camper tracking system? TTAG? feedback to donors? financial summary? publicity?	0
Sharing lessons learned across camps would be great. And share this information with the dorm moms if pertinent to their role. Cushman/OML	0
Make effort to reach parents after camp. Possible TT supporters or AAUW members. Dillon/PP	0

Use the Survey Monkey information submitted by the campers at the end of camp to assess the pros and cons of the camp attended. Follow-up surveys of girls 2, 5, 7 and 10 years later will provide long-term data to verify efficacy of Tech Trek. The campers need to be aware of the follow-up surveys when they apply and attend camp.	0
---	---

Other	Votes
Fohner--Gilroy Why are we trying to be "the Best" when what we are doing is so significant? The girls from Gilroy benefit so much for being on a college campus with the emphasis on science.	2
Cynthia Miller Figure out ways to systematically share great workshops/activities across camps W. Clevenger, could these be shared virtually. Some branches also have access to quality presenter...we do with Vandenberg Air Force Base. Joe Des barres Perhaps with camps scheduled sequentially, a team of presenters might be assembled to teach at all camps. This might ensure the quality of instruction issue.	2
Letha Saldanha: Been branch coordinator and staff at Camp for 5 years now. My main take away and feedback from my first batch that just went to college is that camp is great (and fun!) but the continued local alumni group and activities is what makes the big difference both in sustaining STEM interest and in building up leadership and confidence esp since going back as counselor is very limited opportunities	2
Karelle Cornwell - I would like a way to exchange ideas and best practices with other branch coordinators.	2
All branches should receive support and guidance to start TTAG. Dillon/PP	2
Is Tech Trek "the best"? Need to compare vs. COSMOS, Johns Hopkins CTY programs in CA, Medical Youth Science Program at Stanford, AI Lab Outreach Program at Stanford, Design Media Arts Summer Institute at UCLA, Google Computer Science Summer Institute, Camp SeaLab at CalState Monterey Bay, Catalina Sea Camp, Floating Sea Camp from Catalina joe DesBarres we must balance our offering with cost. Other orgs offering camps have often greater resources and long range intents.	1
Fohner-Gilroy We are a small branch and could use help with the follow up to keep the girls connected and learning	0
m. Buchner The Amer Camping Assoc has used online reg and paperwork for several years. We should be able to do this ,too.	0
Jane Krause - I truly hope that there will be MORE training in doing all the paper work virtually. It is extremely frustrating this year to understand and train committee members in "vital" selection of students.	0

Letha Saldanha: Would be great to see camp staff and counselors reflective of the demographics of the area where the camp is so the girls see role models who 'look' like them.	0
Santa Cruz, question the "woman warrior" logo you sent. Please rethink this. Are we trying to give the girls the idea that being a powerful woman means bulging breasts and iron abs? She also looks violent. We believe a STEM wonder woman should be looked up to and be able to identify with . Maybe a contest for girls to design a STEM Woman???	0
marielle boortz- strongly support forming TT alumni groups. regional or state best? communicate/interact with however that age girl interacts ...whichever social media app they regularly use....and that app will likely change over the years. alumni groups might make tracking the campers/gather statistics on effect of TT camp experience on their education and career choices too.	0
marielle boortz- agree w comment of trying to have cultural/visual diversity in TT camp staff. might need to get the broad representation via some virtual courses if such diversity in instructors/staff not available near the camp.	0
Prefer paperless for application and other steps. This year had some kinks to work out, but overall it's better than all that paper. Dillon/PP	0
I am impressed about the whole Tech Trek organization and success and that is why I joined AAUW-SF 3 years ago. TT in an awesome experience but it is a TTAG program that will ultimately make the difference, that will sustain and support the interest in STEM of the TT campers, after the one week camp experience, through high school and into college. R Valle, San Francisco	0
Please look into complete on line registration. Many other organizations and camps use on line systems. Let's move ahead!	0