**AAUW Tech Trek NM 2018 at New Mexico Tech**

**New Mexico Science and Math Teachers -**

**Nominate 7th grade girls interested in STEM!**

**Nominations close January 31, 2018.**

**Dear New Mexico Seventh Grade Science and Math Teachers:**

**AAUW** **Tech Trek NM** (American Association of University Women) is proud to announce that our week-long residential summer camp for rising eighth grade girls focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) will be held **June 10-16, 2018, at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, NM**.

**Tech Trek NM invites you and your math/science colleagues to nominate up to 4 girls from your school to attend Tech Trek NM. The cost to each girl selected is only $50.** Tech Trek is diverse and inclusive and offers a science camp experience to some New Mexico girls who may not have had exposure to developed STEM programs. In 2017, 60 girls from all over our state participated in Tech Trek NM. Check out our webpage<http://techtrek-nm.aauw.net>to learn more.

**We encourage you to consider female students who exhibit the qualities of a Tech Trek camper:**

* Is excited by math and science with the potential to excel;
* Has at least a “B” average;
* Has a need for exposure to STEM opportunities and has not participated in a week-long STEM camp;
* Demonstrates maturity when interacting with her peers;
* Can adapt to new situations like being away from home for a week;
* Shows interest in learning new things, especially in math or science;
* Follows directions well and shows patience and persistence in task completion;
* Works well in group situations and is willing to help all levels of students in the class;
* Cooperates with teachers, shows respect for others and participates in class discussions;
* Demonstrates responsibility, exhibits self-control and has no serious discipline issues;
* Makes positive choices for herself, in and out of class;
* Willing to try a challenging task, and complete it.

Girls benefit greatly from exposure to STEM role models, learning that they can be good at STEM subjects by practicing over time and judging themselves fairly against the achievements of their peers.  Tech Trek provides an opportunity for girls to experience all of these issues. The AAUW Tech Trek Program seeks to be diverse and inclusive in its outreach.

Tech Trek builds on AAUW's research report, *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*, which demonstrated that camps like Tech Trek improve girls' interest and confidence in STEM fields. You can download the report free at: [http://www.aauw.org/resource/why-so-few-women-in-science-technology-engineering-mathematics/.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001VPz0XMLiUs5a7Yt6MCjUuPrDgKXxTFIinrQb62KS6NZk_HgrYVPXRxzvd3qQiI7bNcKXVnSj2o8T4l92NiPeWmHECWkPN-kLs0ndLtVTgJXF3v6uv9F-0hFgrpsIvxJhgi3CrC0R7Kp6k04tiJZAgXNht9mXsM6Ehzv19G3p2zUlTiOh-7EmJhOJw4xChQK2imF9pvxszHnep0qypKNdTVMq8mLPoh8c5tfR2GreoYQr1o6d6oDFyQoO95htLDQtFPxxK10a-p4=&c=0UL0mJGGxXl2cJjeQk_Vzq0BusMhxpSqq4FYvqSsR5nXys5xuV9Oiw==&ch=dqrmA9FmVhZAGu9h4tYYQjKE-2uLQzM0HgjOFn0Xd-jHqVTWt2F1Yg==)

We ask you and your colleagues to nominate up to 4 girls from your school by submitting the attached rank-ordered nomination forms to: [techtreknm@gmail.com](mailto:techtreknm@gmail.com) by Wednesday, **January 31, 2018**. When you are nominating a girl, **please consider what you know about her and whether she would truly benefit from a weeklong summer science camp.** The best students academically are not necessarily the best fit for Tech Trek. Some students show their true potential in a setting such as Tech Trek. We also ask that you rank each nominee in order of the qualities she exhibits from the list above.

In early February, we will send application packages to every girl nominated. We ask that you encourage your nominees to apply by completing and submitting the application forms by Wednesday, February 28, 2018 to either AAUW Tech Trek NM, P.O. Box 92643, Albuquerque, NM 87199 or emailing to [techtreknm@gmail.com](mailto:techtreknm@gmail.com).

Every girl who submits an application will be interviewed with her parent(s) or guardian(s) by two AAUW-NM members in March. Our selection committee will select up to 60 girls to attend the 2018 camp. It is our priority to select girls who may not have had an opportunity to participate in an inspiring STEM program. We also strive to select a group of campers who reflect the demographics of New Mexico with a mix of urban and rural girls of all ethnicities and races.

**If there are other teachers or administrators at your school who you think would be interested in Tech Trek, please share this letter and other information with them.**

We look forward to receiving nominations from your school. Thank you!

Cheri Burch

Tech Trek NM 2018 Camp Co-Director

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