

American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Tech Trek Alumnae Group (TTAG) of the South Bay

Virtual STEM Camp

Tri-Branch TTAG Event
Beach Cities, Palos Verdes Peninsula,
Torrance Branches

July 27 – 31, 2020



AAUW and Tech Trek

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading organization promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since its founding in 1881, AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community. AAUW members often affect reforms with regard to fundamental issues of the modern day – educational, societal, economic, and political. For more than 130 years, we have worked as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

Tech Trek is a week-long science and math summer camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in young women entering eighth grade. It features hands-on activities in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. The camp takes place on a university campus, where girls can experience being at college and living away from home.

All girls attend Tech Trek on scholarships provided by AAUW California branch members, working with participating middle schools in their area. Seventh grade science and/or math teachers at these schools recommend camper candidates who must then pass an extensive qualification process, including an application, essay, and personal interview. Camp curriculum is specifically designed for girls entering eighth grade.

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Sophie Maguy, now a senior at Stanford University, received a scholarship to attend Tech Trek in 2012 as a rising eighth grader. As a high school freshman, Sophie and one of her classmates, Julianne Paine, who also attended Tech Trek camp, thought it would be beneficial to establish an organization for every girl who has attended Tech Trek from the South Bay, to support their pursuit of a STEM related career. In 2013, they founded TTAG. Research shows that environmental and social barriers, including stereotypes and social bias, continue to block women's progress in STEM (*Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*. 2010 AAUW report.) Since girls are more likely to use technology when they see its real-world applications, TTAG offers

Women in STEM Forums, which help give young women insight into high-demand STEM careers in a global economy, presented by women who have experienced and achieved success in these fields. These forums are intended to help prepare young men and women for these exciting and well-paying careers. TTAG South Bay also offers College Prep 101 Forums to help prepare our local young people and their families for high school and college.

It was at one of our TTAG meetings that we decided to offer an alternative and virtual experience for girls who were selected for Tech Trek camps, but were unable to attend a camp for a week in residence at a college campus due to the current public health crisis.

Co-Directors of Virtual STEM Camp 2020



Denise DeVenuto
TTAG Advisor/Coordinator
AAUW Palos Verdes Branch



Khushi K.
Student Co-Director
TTAG Incoming President
Zoom Host



Terry Hays-Horner
TTAG Advisor/Coordinator
AAUW Beach Cities Branch

Also Participating:

- Alice Matthews, President AAUW Torrance Branch,
TTAG Advisor/Coordinator
- Gloria Liu, TTAG Co-Advisor, Member AAUW Torrance Branch

Dr. Stacey Brydges - Chemistry

Dr. Stacey Brydges is a Teaching Professor and Vice Chair of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Climate in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UC San Diego, and an Affiliate Faculty of the San Diego State University/UC San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Mathematics and Science Education. She received her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from McMaster University (Hamilton, ON, Canada) in 2003 and served as an associate research scientist and lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at Columbia University in the City of New York (2004-2008) before joining the faculty at UC San Diego. Her program of chemical education research and practice has three major strands: (1) evidence-based chemistry lab and lecture pedagogy and curriculum reform at the introductory level; (2) STEM educator (K-12 teacher, graduate TA, and faculty) socialization, collaboration, and professional development; and (3) programming that advances access to, and retention in, STEM education and careers, particularly for women, underrepresented minorities, and two-year college transfer students. She is a recipient of the UC San Diego Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award (2013-14), the 7th Inductee (1881-2015) to the RCI Wall of Achievement, and a *2018 Athena Pinnacle Awards Nominee in Education* for fostering the professional growth of women in STEM.



Sarah Guidinger - Forensic Science

Sarah Guidinger has been involved in Tech Trek since 2009, when she was selected by the Torrance Branch in seventh grade at Casimir Middle School to be a Tech Trek camper. She attended the UC Santa Barbara camp and took the Forensic Science core class. Sarah has continued to be involved at the Tech Trek Camps. At the UC Santa Barbara camp, she has served as a Counselor, Intern, Dorm Mom, IT consultant, and Assistant Director. She has also been involved at the Whittier College camp as a Dorm Mom, Counselor Coordinator and, in summer of 2019, she taught the Forensic Science class.



She graduated from North High and El Camino College where she majored in Criminal Law, Physical Science, Chemistry and Biology. Currently, Sarah is a senior, majoring in Forensic Science at Cal State Los Angeles. She will continue her studies there during the next academic year, when she will be entering their Masters in Criminalistics degree program.

Scott Simon - Marine Science

Scott Simon is a native of Santa Barbara. He spent most hours, when not in school, exploring outdoors or building models. From the Santa Ynez Mountains in his “back yard,” to the Santa Barbara Channel in his “front yard,” Scott could be found swimming in Mission Creek catching frogs and crayfish, surfing the South Coast from Jalama to Malibu, and snorkeling and SCUBA diving in the Pacific around Catalina Island and the Santa Barbara Channel Islands! It is no wonder, that from a very early age, Scott wanted to study and explore our Ocean Planet. With an additional love of all things mechanical, Scott has made a career in Ocean science as the director of the Research Experience & Education Facility, aka The REEF, UCSB’s Teaching Aquarium. Scott has also served as the Marine Science teacher for the UCSB Tech Trek Camp for the past 13 years!



Denise DeVenuto - Life Skills Presentation

Denise DeVenuto is the TTAG Advisor for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch of AAUW, and was also the Coordinator of the Tech Trek Committee for five years. Her motivation for joining AAUW was her passion for helping to ensure that women and girls have equal opportunities in education and employment. Denise presented the Life Skills seminar at the UCSD camp in 2018.



She received an A.A. degree from Pasadena City College and transferred to UCSB, where she earned a B.A. degree in Political Science. For fourteen years she worked in Los Angeles Superior Court as a Judicial Assistant in courtrooms that dealt with serious felony cases. When she moved to Northern Virginia in 1994, she noted the large number of immigrants in the area and the need for ESL teachers. She took graduate courses at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and earned both a certificate to teach ESL to adults and a Masters of Education degree to teach children in Pre-K through 12th grade. She has also taken graduate courses at GMU in reading remediation. Denise taught middle school English, US History, US Government and Economics, Spanish 1, Remedial Reading and Life Science at Fairfax County Public Schools.

While her Tech Trek involvement keeps her very busy, Denise finds time to visit her three children on the East Coast, travel, and read voraciously and widely.

Ximena Mutis - STEAM Career Presentation

Ximena Mutis is a Graphic/Tech Designer who always enjoyed drawing and creating intricate designs even as a young girl. She immigrated to the US at the age of seven from Colombia, and moved to the Los Angeles area so she could finish her studies. She received her BA in Visual Arts from Cal State University, Northridge. Some of the courses she focused on were Web Design, Interaction Design, and User Experience Design.



When she worked at Symantec, one of the largest cybersecurity companies, she designed some of their mobile and web applications. At NTT Data, she designed web platforms for Wells Fargo employees. Currently, she's working at Embarkvet, a canine genomics and biotechnology company that offers dog DNA testing services to consumers, breeders, and veterinarians, and she's helping with the company's rebrand.

She has been freelancing with companies for four years, helping them reach their design and tech goals. She incorporates her skill at developing and designing videos and motion graphics so she can tell more of a complete story.

Her work has been featured in Rolling Stone Magazine, The Cannes Film Festival, The Oakland Museum of California, and most recently with Intel and Uber.

Ximena has been a member of AAUW Beach Cities Branch. She participated in Whittier College Tech Trek Camp in 2019 as a Dorm Mom and was a speaker in 2017 for a Women in STEM Careers forum organized by TTAG.

TTAG Committee Members Participating in Virtual STEM Camp

Introduction & Zoom Instructions – Khushi K., Incoming TTAG President

Welcome & Closing – Charlotte M., Outgoing TTAG President

Team Building Activity Leaders - Alexis K., Senara S., Richa T., Victoria L.

High School/College Prep Presenters - Khushi K., Amy J.

Group Discussion Leaders:

Forensic Science – Alexis K., Elena T., Caroline V., Karen M.,
Margarita A., Senara S., Yasmin E.

Marine Science - Alexandra M., Alexis K., Amy J., Caroline V.,
Kira O., Margarita A., Victoria L.

Also Participating:

Communications / TTAG Membership Coordinator - Lahari A.



TTAG of the South Bay wishes to thank all the teachers, presenters, and TTAG/TTAC members who participated in making this virtual camp possible. It is our hope that the campers enjoyed the classes and presentations, and found them educational and enlightening. We look forward to having the campers participate further in TTAG by joining us at our monthly meetings and getting to know the other girls, who like them, attended a Tech Trek camp.

For more information, or to learn about AAUW, Tech Trek, or TTAG visit their websites:

www.aauw.org

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-trek/>

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/what-is-tech-trek/>

<http://torrance-ca.aauw.net/>

<http://beachcities-ca.aauw.net/>

<http://palosverdes-ca.aauw.net/>

Email TTAG for more information at: TechTrekAlum@yahoo.com

Email TTAG Advisors at:

Terry Hays Horner - thredondo@gmail.com

Denise DeVenuto - dendev88@gmail.com

Follow TTAG:

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Facebook: Tech Trek AAUW, Torrance CA

Facebook: AAUW Beach Cities