



2025 Tech Trek Timeline for Branch Contacts

This information is from Mary Zivanov at AAUW-FL (aauwtechtrekfl@gmail.com). It was received in an email on August 14, 2024.

Just a note regarding the financial responsibility of the branches toward Tech Trek: It costs about \$1300 per girl to provide Tech Trek Camp at two sites each year. We aim to serve 96 girls so the cost for camp in 2025 will be approximately \$130,000. We depend on the branches raising \$1300 for each girl they send to camp. A subcommittee of Tech Trek and the Foundation is working to raise funds moving into 2025 but the bulk of camp costs need to be assumed by the branches. We will share fundraising ideas and letters to the branches as we identify sources for funding. Thankfully, branches that do not send girls do support Tech Trek with donations.

Plans are underway for Tech Trek 2025. At this time, we are moving forward in planning for two in-person camps with 48 campers at each site: one at Stetson University, DeLand, FL, and one at Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL. Dates for the camps will be announced once they are finalized. June has been a good month for camp.

SUMMER

- ***Begin planning fundraising efforts.*** Explore your county for STEM related businesses or corporations that might be willing to sponsor a girl at \$1300 or be willing to make a donation to Tech Trek. Check your community foundation and county commissioners for sponsorship possibilities or other professional women's groups. This year's camp will cost \$130,000. We will need more donations than we received this year if we are to continue serving 96 girls at two camps.
- ***Reach out to STEM coordinators.*** Check your school district offices for a STEM coordinator who might be able to help you contact schools. We have an excellent video which talks about camp and has lots of pictures of the girls and their activities. If you would like to have access to this, email me at techtrekfl16@gmail.com. We also have some short videos made by this year's campers.

SEPTEMBER

- ***Contact your schools or school district*** so that you are ready to send out letters to schools.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- ***Begin the nomination process.*** Letters will be sent to you from the Tech Trek Committee to use with principals and teachers. Please use the material received from us this year, not letters used in the past.

We plan to use electronic nominations. The link will be embedded in the letter to teachers. We will also include a link to an info piece for teachers in the letter.

- ***Contact schools*** through the School District STEM coordinator or go directly to the principal or guidance counselors. Try to use the procedure you have used in the past. If contacting schools is a problem and you need help, let me know.

Make sure teachers have time to get to know the girls in their classes before they need to make the nomination.

- **November 1 is the target date for letters to the teachers.** We have found that few teachers nominate early, so you may have to contact the schools again in December.

DECEMBER

- ***Follow up with teachers*** to make sure they are completing the nomination process.
- ***Send application information directly to the girls via email.*** This year we plan to have an informational Zoom meeting in January for parents and nominated girls. Hopefully this will generate more applications. More information will come closer to the event.
- **December 15 is the deadline to submit nominations to the Tech Trek Committee.** However, we will accept nominations until winter break.

JANUARY

- ***Form a committee to interview the applicants.*** Interview information will be sent to branches by the committee. This is an important part of the camp process.
- ***Join us for the informational Zoom meeting*** in January. Zoom invite will be sent to presidents and contacts.
- **January 31 is the deadline for girls to submit their applications to the Tech Trek Committee.**

FEBRUARY/MARCH

- **Contact girls for interviews.** The names and contact information will be sent to you to facilitate contacting girls from your branch area to set up interviews. Email invitations, but if there is no response, please call the family. All nomination and application information will be available to branch contacts via email. Check the interview information for more details.
- **The branch committee interviews the applicants.** Make sure parents are not in the room when your committee interviews the girls.

In person interviews are preferred, however, Zoom or telephone interviews are acceptable if having a central place for the interviews is difficult. It is important that all girls who apply are interviewed. This is a part of a well thought out process.

- **March 11, 2025, is the deadline for completing all interviews and sending interview results, including score and branch rankings, to Tech Trek Committee.**

Please look for girls who

- are excited about camp; and,
- may not have other similar opportunities.

- **Rank girls and provide notes** that will assist the committee in developing the list of campers. Your notes have been very helpful in the past. If a girl applies that you do not feel would be a good choice for camp, please let us know. In 2024 we had more applications than slots for camp. Your interview information is vital to the committee's decision making.
- **Finalize all fundraising activities.** Please mail branch donations to the P.O. Box starting in April. We start accruing expenses at that time. Checks must be made out to AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. with Tech Trek on the memo line.
- **Girls selected.** Representatives from both camps will meet and identify girls selected to attend camp.
- **Letters will be emailed to girls** who were and were not accepted by March 30, 2025. All girls interviewed in your area will receive their letters on the same day.
- **Branches will receive a list of girls** who were invited to camp.

APRIL

- **Registration will be done digitally.** Registration fee for camp will be due at the same time. Checks must be made out to AAUW FL Supporting Foundation with the camper's name on the memo line. Mail them to Tech Trek Florida, [PO Box 126, Palm City, FL 34991](#). Due to our experience with girls not showing up to camp, we are discouraging branches for covering the registration fee for girls. The committee believes the cost to families is nominal. Families will have ample time to raise the fee. Our no shows at camp over the past two years have been girls whose registration was paid by a branch. This is \$50 you wasted and ultimately \$1300 we paid for a place at camp for a girl who did not attend.

MAY

- **Plan a recognition ceremony for your campers.** Take pictures for PR. Send information to your local news outlets. Branches will receive nomination awards to be delivered to your middle schools. These can be distributed at the school awards assembly at the end of the year.

JUNE

- **Camps will be held** at Stetson University and Florida Atlantic University

JULY

- **Plan a meeting for girls to make presentations to your branch** regarding their experience at camp. This is a good time to invite nominating teachers and local donors.

AUGUST

- **Branches will receive copies of the camp brochure** with pictures from camp and list of donors and sponsors. Save and use for PR purposes.
- **Begin the process again.**