

TECH TREK CAMP 2018 (<https://techtrek-davis.aauw.net/>) July 22-28 was a great success for our 5 campers and our #1 Dorm Mom **Patricia Watters**.

Our 2018 TT campers are: **Sabine Alvarez-Bradford**, **Cassandra Munoz**, **Kiele Myers**, **Ava Sayles** and **Zuridey Vazquez Lopez**.

Please plan to attend our **branch luncheon on October 11** to hear the girls talk about their Tech Trek experiences. Their Thank You letters can be found on p. 4-8.

Thank you, **Ginger Wilson**, for driving us so comfortably and safely to and fro to UC Davis on Visit Day July 26. Members chauffeured by Ginger were **Ann Yuhas**, **Christine Madden**, **Priscilla Mills**, and **Meri McEneny**. We observed our North Tahoe girls in their core classes (Anatomy, Genetics, Engineering, 3-D Math, Cyber Security/Coding) then had lunch with them and Patricia in the student cafeteria before returning home.



A Dorm Mom's Reflections

Tech Trek 2018, UC Davis

*It was the age of innocence.*¹ My commitment to volunteer as one of nine dorm moms at a week-long STEM camp for 94 girls approaching 8th grade was boldly and naively made. I didn't know any better. I didn't have children and I didn't teach elementary school. What I lacked in experience, I hoped would be forgiven by my enthusiasm.

I was not prepared. Camp directors, counselors, staff, and experienced dorm moms showered me with volumes of paperwork months in advance of the week in July scheduled for Tech Trek camp at UC Davis. Gatherings were arranged with experienced people to share their knowledge. The head dorm mom personally coached me.

I *still* was not prepared. I arrived at camp armed with comforts to make campus and dorm life more tolerable: pillows and comforter, towels and soap to replace the Motel-6 variety provided, aspirin, 8 pounds of M&Ms, hats, and spray bottles to serve as mini-evaporative coolers.

Camp is **BUSY!** Genetics, Anatomy, Coding, Engineering, and Math core group teachers challenged the girls with experiments, projects, and problems. Afternoons and evenings were crammed with campus excursions or activities at our dorm: rare night-sky telescopic views of three planets, blowing bottle rockets to the chemistry building roof, sound stage mechanics that can make any of us sound like a rock-star. Even the night of retail therapy centered on family budget lessons.

Mealtime was a prominent part of our days. With a little guidance from the onsite nurse, the girls shifted from donut sandwiches to healthier eating at the three daily meals. I felt like I was at a spa inside a whole building of foods fixed by and cleaned up by someone else. Zumba was a fun way to burn off a few of those extra calories.

In between my 5:45 AM shower and midnight ramblings to prepare for the next day, we had a few precious moments as a dorm group. Each morning, the girls would roam the hallway to decipher the word puzzles marked on their white boards:

BAN ANA

(banana split)

STYgoLE

(go in style)

MIND
MATTER

(mind over matter)

I found that shave cream and food coloring produced marbled journals that were good clean fun!

The girls played, too. Have you tried doing the "worm" on the floor? Did they laugh at my screeches when I opened a cabinet door to look for left items on check-out day and one of the girls jumped out!

¹ With credit to Edith Wharton for use of the title of her 1920 novel. She was the first woman awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for this writing.

Well, I'm happy to report no injuries – physical or mental. My ten fledglings were eager, kind, and so, so bright! Many had never been away from their families before, but I suspect they missed their banned cell phones more than a sibling or parent. The last night's "slumber party" was bittersweet as we all tumbled into bed after a week with new friends and adventures.

Would I do it again? The campus directors advised that wasn't a question you pose to a mother who just delivered her first child, nor to a person who just finished her first trial at "dorm-mom-ing". I learned a few things about myself: Be unprepared and adapt. Don't burn popcorn in a microwave. And a few things about this generation of students: What looks like chaos is a learning experience. I came away with a renewed hope that these young girls will find solutions for today's and tomorrow's problems.

Thank you, AAUW, for this life-changing experience.

Patricia Watters
AAUW North Tahoe Co-President
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*Dynamo Dorm Moms **Before** Camp...*



*And **After!***





July 26, 2018

Dear AAUW North Lake Tahoe,

Thank you so so much for sending me to Tech Trek! I had the most amazing time! I loved my core class anatomy. We dissected, bones, brains, eyes, liver bits, lungs, and heart. We also did Fun Stations in anatomy, like testing our vitals, testing our senses, and building a lung! Also, I enjoyed the different studies that we did through-out the day, for example, building our own greenhouse, studying physics, and forensic science. Finally, at Tech Trek I made a lot of new friends who I will stay in touch with. I loved this experience and I am so grateful! Thank You so much.

With appreciation,

Kiele Myers

AAUW 2018 Tech Trekker



July 27, 2018

Dear AAUW North Lake Tahoe

Thank you so much for inviting me to Tech Trek. I had so much fun. I really enjoyed eating lunch with you. I enjoyed meeting new people and I learned so much. One of my favorite memories was visiting the Mondavi Center, because we went behind the scenes and learned more about sound. Once again Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Cassie Muñoz



June 26, 2018

Dear AAUW NLT,

Thank you so much for sending me here. I really liked going to the vet and dissecting lungs in anatomy! I also really appreciated you guys for making the effort to bring us all here. I also loved that you came all this way to have lunch with us. Hopefully we and other tech trekkers stay in contact. **THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS FOR ALL OF US!!**

Sincerely,
Zury Vazquez Lopez



7/27/2018

Dear AAUW North Tahoe Branch,

Thank you so very much for choosing me to go to this amazing Tech Trek camp. I have learned so much about, well, everything from physiology to woman empowerment to anatomy.

I also had such a great time meeting new people and becoming friends with them. My favorite part of camp was my anatomy classes. They were very intriguing and interesting. My note book and brain are both full of information.

Thank's so much for sending me to camp. I truly left this place smarter than I came!

Sincerely,
Ava Sayles



7/25/18

Dear AAUW North Lake Tahoe,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity!

I loved it! I have made some very

memorable memories! I loved learning about

how many different jobs there are available

to me! I had no idea how many different jobs

you can do like a Environmental Engineer,

Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL), and

Foresic Scientist! I'm so happy here! I

really think I've made some life long

friends! I hope you have a great summer!!!

- Sincerely

Tech Trek @ UC Davis

- Galina Alkings-Broff

