

TECH TREK *Science, technology, engineering, and math education for girls*

July 9-15, 2023

Tercero Campus, University of California, Davis

Tech Trek survived the pandemic, and continues to inspire local girls due to the unwavering support of North Tahoe School's 7th grade teachers and staff; the continuing support of our members, and the on-going support of local partners Rotary Club of Tahoe City and Tahoe League for Charity. The Family Foundation of former AAUW NT members Dave and Shirley Allen is generous and kind. Thank you all!

Our 5 campers from North Tahoe, **Aleyda, Ava, Dana, Leilani** and **Ximena** attended the residential TT camp at UC Davis in a newly remodeled section of campus, the Tercero Area. All reports are the food was just as good! Tercero is near the Veterinary Medical Center and the Bohart Museum; and we walked through the Arboretum to arrive at the Mondavi Center. Everyone hopes this is the last year to consider Covid.

Co-directors of UCD TT **Martha Rees** and **Stephanie Facchini** are retiring from years of great leadership at the camp. UC Davis Tech Trek Camp is in Need of New Leadership. Camp has numerous volunteers and staff continuing on! The directorship comes with a modest stipend. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact these retiring co-directors Martha Rees and Stephanie Facchini:

Martha Rees: mjkrees@yahoo.com, H 530.274.8177, C 510.205.4241

Stephanie Facchini: sj.facchini@gmail.com, 530.913.5519

Priscilla Mills once again served as Dorm Mom. *Thank you Priscilla!* **Meri** helped recruit presenters for the Mindfulness workshop, and with Professional Women's Evening. Visit Day brought cheers from members and supporters. It is an honor to serve and enjoy this 25th anniversary of Tech Trek!

Meri McEneny

Tech Trek/STEM Trek Day Coordinator



Mark your calendars!

What:

Our annual presentations from our Girls State and Tech Trek representatives

When:

Thursday October 12, 3:15-4:30 pm

Where:

North Tahoe High School Auditorium,
2945 Polaris Road, Tahoe City, CA

*This is always an inspiring event.
Please plan to join us!*



VIRTUAL TECH TREK

July 23-28, 2023

Virtual TT continues as a great alternative for branches to support girls throughout the State at a rigorous STEM camp online, with lower costs than residential, no travel required, and allowing more girls to participate than residential camp can accommodate. Two of our members, **Cheryl Allen** and **Meri** assisted again as coaches.

VTT is also a great training ground for junior counselors who are former TT campers; training them in both Technology and Social skills. Our 2021 NT virtual camper **Vallerie Laguna** was a model VTT coach this summer. She actively assisted campers, other coaches and the directors. She found answers if she didn't know them, anticipated needs and was always alert and helpful.

Vallerie was selected for residential camp in 2020, but Covid changed that. In 2021 she attended the first virtual camp, and many recall her inspiring talk that October at our Girls State/Tech Trek event at Tahoe Tree Co.

Vallerie will attend our September 21, 40th anniversary celebration at the Yacht Club, and share her experiences with Virtual Tech Trek. Also sharing their experiences of camp are former Tech Trekkers **Marion Snideman** and **Miya Casci**.

This October, Vallerie will introduce our 2023 UCD Tech Trek campers at our annual meeting highlighting our Girls State and Tech Trek representatives. She will share her leadership experience at North Tahoe High School and future goals. She recently wrote [an article for Moonshine ink](#) on **Representation Matters**. Meet Vallerie, Marion and Miya on September 21!



STEM TREK DAY

June 3, 2023

Tahoe Environmental Research Center / University of Reno LT Campus

STEM Trek Day hosted **14 girls** from throughout the region on June 3rd, at the TERC facility on UNR LT campus. It was a great day! Two girls attended from North Tahoe including one nominated for Tech Trek.

Our 5-branch committee had hoped for more reservations but mid-way through a fun and busy day, one of our Nevada Tahoe sisters exclaimed, “what would we do with more girls?!”

It was a great day for the girls and the AAUW members too. We learned about exponential growth in nature and predator-prey relationships. We studied the forest around TERC with Maria Mircheva and planted seedlings near Incline Creek from her Sugar Pine Foundation.

Katie Senft, a professional diver for TERC, explained microplastics at the Lake and how to prevent them. Keeley Martinez showed us how to have fun with art and Fibonacci numbers. ***My heartfelt thanks to Erin Loury’s broad and adept presentation on Fisheries and Communication, even as she prepared for her wedding!***

The women of TERC were knowledgeable, at ease, and wonderful role models. TERC Education and Outreach Director Heather Segale emailed afterwards: “Thank you Meri, Jan, and the entire team for making the STEM Trek event such a success. It was engaging and we enjoyed hosting the event again this year. Best regards to all, Heather”

I welcome new or current members to join the fun! Thank you all for your support.

Meri McEneny

Tech Trek/STEM Trek Day Coordinator

All members are invited to our **October meeting to meet our 2023 Girls State and Tech Trek representatives.**

Each girl gives a 5-minute extemporaneous talk about her experiences. It is a highlight of the year! Join us on **Thursday, October 12, 3:15-4:30 pm at the North Tahoe High School Auditorium (2945 Polaris Road, Tahoe City).**

See more STEM Trek Day photos on the next two pages!



- STEM Trek Day Photos -



- STEM Trek Day Photos -



STEM Trek Day Committee and TERC Staff (from left to right)



Keeley Martinez, TERC/Americorps, **Barbara Kuehner**, Capital branch (NV), **Maria Mircheva**, Sugar Pine Foundation, **Meri McEneny**, North Tahoe branch, **Bets Strohl**, Capital branch, **Laura Durica**, TahoeNV branch, **Mary Fenelon**, TahoeNV, **Jan Lynds**, South Lake Tahoe branch, **Stephanie Facchini**, Capital and Nevada City branches, **Heather Segale**, Education & Outreach Director, TERC.

Not pictured: **Phoebe Landry**, Truckee-Donner branch.

- Tech Trek Photos -



Aleyda's Arrival Day



Leilani's Arrival Day



Ximena's Arrival Day



Dana and Her Dorm Group



Ava in the Anatomy Core Class Lab



Priscilla and Her Dorm Group

- Tech Trek Photos -



Aleyda Using the Mondavi Sound Board



Ava and the Anatomy Core Group



Dana and the Space Science Core Group



Leilani in the Wearable Tech Core Class



Ximena and Aleyda in the Food Science Lab



Leilani and Her Wearable Tech Core Group

- Tech Trek Photos -



Ava in the Food Science Lab



Ximena and Aleyda in the Vet Medicine Lab



Ximena in the Solar Car Engineering Core Class



Dana in the Space Science Core Class



Tech Tech 2023 Group Photo

Tech Trek Thank You Note from Ximena Trinidad Castellanos



University of California, Davis

Dear NTS AALXO Branch,

I really want to thank you for giving me the amazing opportunity of being at the AALXO TechTrek Camp at UC Davis. This has been such a wonderful experience so far. I've learned so much about so many things like engineering, solar power, the scarcity of water on Earth. I have also learned about things that I will need in the future, like credit, budget, collage, and simple vital probes. We also got free bathmats from a really nice nurse. One memory that I will forever stay with me is the astrology night where we saw venus and mars through a professional telescope. I also honestly want to say that the food did not disappoint. Over all I would like to thank you for giving me this amazing opportunity that will forever stay with me and has impacted my life in many ways. I have learned so much and have made great memories. From learning about many influential women to singing our hearts out with my dorm group before lights out. Thank you for being responsible for this amazing part of my life.

With love

Ximena Trinidad Castellanos

Tech Trek Thank You Note from Leilani Carrasco



University of California, Davis

July 12, 2023

Dear AAUW North Tahoe Branch,

I am very grateful for this once in a life time experience to take part in many activities while at UC Davis Tech Trek.

During this week at the STEM camp, I've listened to many different women, with different occupations, speak about their lives and how science affected them. I really enjoyed hearing Tina Yang speak about her job because I didn't know food science was something you could work as. It got me wondering what other abstract careers do I not know about. Either way, I really enjoyed the diverse activities. We learned from (almost) A-Z, Audiology on down.

In all, this camp greatly inspired me to keep learning about different occupations in science. I now know that I have a variety of options to choose from when I decide to pursue my career with my STEM background.

Sincerely,

Leilani Carrasco P.

Tech Trek Thank You Note from Dana Valdez

July 13, 2023



University of California, Davis

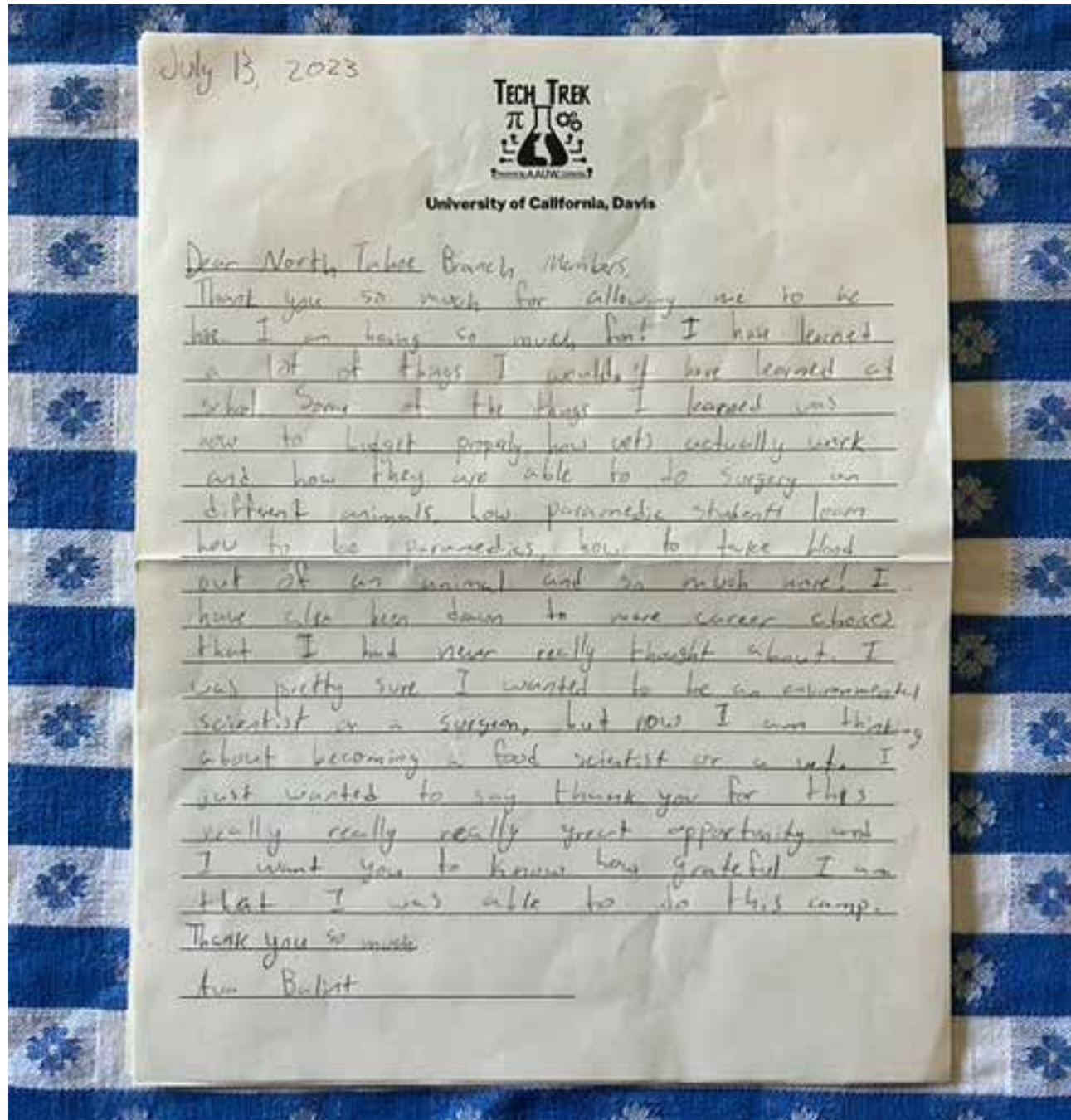
Dear North Tahoe AAUW

Thank you for being so welcoming these past few years. I'm grateful that you nominated me and some other friends for Tech ~~Trek~~ Trek. It's been really fun and I'm glad that I got to come because there's a lot to learn. It's really fun, but you do have to walk a lot so I should have brought walking shoes. But anyway I hope you choose great people to nominate next year. When I first got here I was nervous and overwhelmed because there was a lot of people that I didn't know. I can't wait for 8th grade!

Love,

Dana Valdez Paz

Tech Trek Thank You Note from Ava Balint



Tech Trek Thank You Note from Aleyda Alferez



University of California, Davis

Dear North Tahoe Branch
Thank you for sending me to Tech Trek.
I really love it here, I love my anatomy lab
class, and all the things we did in that class.
The teachers, our staff, junior counselors, well-
thing and everything is amazing here I don't ever
want to leave. My dorm group and I really bond
here and I still see people from my school here
and we just have a blast. I really appreciate
it and I'm so grateful for being accepted and
brought into this camp. The days are full so
we are never bored. Really I appreciate it
for what you did to get me here.

Sincerely Aleyda