

# Tech Trek News

*Betty Reed, past Tech Trek Director*



*Pictured L to R: Anjana Shriram, Lila Denning, Natalie Hernandez, Angelica Atempa, Solano Espino, Rosalind Snider, Jillian Aasand, Michelle Ripol, and Sonja Rodin. Missing is Lorelei Bell*

Our 10 Tech Trek girls are back from camp, and they are all reporting the wonderful times they had! Rebecca Hill, our new Tech Trek Director, and I visited the UCSD campus on open house day, and we came home so impressed with this program and what the girls are learning. For example, we observed a Robotics class and the teacher there was emphasizing teamwork and how no one person on a team could know everything. Girls are learning to rely on one another!

**Anjana Shriram** (*Pacific Trails*): My core class was chemistry. My favorite activity was an experiment that we did regarding the bioluminescence in the ocean's organisms. In addition, we extracted the DNA from strawberries and lit various substances on fire to see whether they were flammable or not. I absolutely loved the environment that Tech Trek provided. Everyone was so supportive, welcoming and friendly! I have always been keen on becoming a doctor so I haven't really considered many other career options. However, after my trip to ViaSat, I have become very interested in aerospace engineering and astrophysics, and I still love medicine.

**Lila Denning** (*Pacific Trails*): Tech Trek has been—and will continue to be—a fantastic week. My core class, coding, was very interesting and I learned many things that I didn't know before. I also enjoyed the various workshops throughout the week, such as physics. Finally, I made great friends here who share my interests.

**Natalie Hernandez** (*Oak Crest*): I really enjoyed my core class which is Forensics. I learned so many things such as how to lift fingerprints and I also loved the DNA bracelets. The bracelets were so complicated! But I finally understood with some help and it turned out really pretty. I also really liked the Rube Goldberg machines where we built our own machine with many obstacles to make it do a simple task. I hope I can continue with a career in the science field in the future.

**Angelica Atempa** (*Oak Crest*): I'm very glad I was put in anatomy class. I was part of many incredible things such as the fetal pig dissection, blowing into real lungs and meeting friends. I highly enjoyed the dissection because its interior anatomy is so similar to that of our own and it was life-changing to be able to hold and observe an organ closely, such as the brain, right in front of me. The dissection is easily one of my favorite experiences at camp. It opened my eyes to all the possible careers associated with anatomy.

**Solano Espino** (*Earl Warren*): During my time here I went to Scripps, participated in a stress management class, and met some inspiring women of science. At Scripps, I learned about global warming, volcanos, and the tides. The stress management class provided me options to help when I am trying to take the weight off my shoulders. And last, some professional women told their stories about they came into their careers and were very influential to me.

**Rosalind Snider** (*Earl Warren*): Thank you for making it possible for me to go to Tech Trek! I've had a lot of fun! My core class was Marine Biology. My teacher made my class super fun! Something fun we did in her class was a squid dissection. Something else we did was a field trip to the Birch Aquarium which I loved and thought was super exciting!

**Jillian Aasand** (*Diegueno*): One of my favorite activities this week was soldering a circuit board in physics class. Accomplishing this intricate activity was enjoyable because of all the different pieces that you have to match up like a puzzle. I also enjoyed dissecting the beef heart in anatomy class. I was very interested when we got to pull on the aorta, arteries, and veins and see how strong those parts of the heart were. Thank you so much for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

**Lorelei Bell** (*Diegueno*): I cannot express how thankful I am. I was in robotics. At first I wasn't sure if I was going to like it but I have found out how much I do enjoy robotics. I have coded before, but have found out that I can't sit still. In robotics I am able to move around and be creative, and this helps me focus. So much work is put into such a simple looking machine. You have to code, wire, and decorate. It takes a lot of focus to finish by the deadline

**Michelle Ripol** (*Carmel Valley*): I got Forensics and one of my favorite parts about Forensics was learning about crime. But my absolute favorite part was learning about fingerprints and blood patterns. My favorite mini-class was physics. We made circuit boards! I had so much fun. I came here knowing very little about Forensics and I'm leaving here with more knowledge than I thought I could have in my brain about Forensics.

**Sonja Rodin** (*Carmel Valley*): This camp has definitely made me more interested in pursuing a STEM-related career. I especially enjoyed the field trip to Scripps Institute of Oceanography, my coding core class, and making new friends. At Scripps, I learned about Earth Science, how weather instruments are used to monitor climate change, and the scientific study of volcanoes. In my coding core class, I was taught how to design and program apps, and eventually created my own.