

Tech Trek News

Rebecca Hill, Tech Trek Director



*Back Row: Georgia Villareal, Ava Newton, Grace Demarest, Shea Kangleon
Front Row: Sidney Rhine, Sriprada Pinnamaraju, Sarah Strasbert
Missing: Lexi Worms, Luna Espinosa, Nayeli Yanez*

Georgia Villareal (Earl Warren): Thank you so much for this great experience. I made new friends I would never thought of having! I am very much obliged. My core class is coding, it is so much fun! The class made five games, one we had to do by ourself. The workshops are also much fun. Each one is different from the last. My favorite workshops were chemistry and physics. And the field trips were amazing, such as going to the beach at Scripps and learning about satellites at Viasat. I enjoyed EVERYTHING at Tech Trek. I learned so much, different tools to use for coding, polymers, being responsible and Newton's third law: For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. I especially enjoyed getting to know other Trekers, and having a USB bracket that has my games on it.

Once again, thank you for sending me here! It really opened my eyes to a career about STEM. I had an amazing week here, I won't forget it!

Grace Demarest (*Carmel Valley*): I would like to thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity of coming to Tech Trek. I've had the most unique experience of my life, and I'll never forget it because this is a once-in-a-lifetime event. As a result of you giving me a sponsorship and bringing me here, I've met so many amazing people & learned so many amazing things. Previously, how the internet worked was a mystery, trigonometry was far out of reach, and I had no idea what Newton's 3rd law is. In the field trip to Viasat, my core class & workshop, I learned all of this and more. All of this information will aid me in high school. I've been prepared here so much more than I've ever hoped to, and I can't thank you enough for allowing me to come. You've given me a true experience and opportunity, and I can't express how grateful I am.

Sriprada Pinnamaraju (*Pacific Trails*): Camp was an interesting and exciting experience. I enjoyed many of the classes, such as Engineering, Chemistry and Physics. In Engineering I learned many different formulas that helped me build a house. Chemistry was a blast! I enjoyed sitting in a "College class," taking notes about how Latex was a manmade/synthetic polymer. I learned how to solder an LED chip and it worked! Overall I learned a lot over the week. Beyond Engineering, I learned how to work well with my peers and how to deal with setbacks. I am very thankful for this opportunity. I am sure that I will use the knowledge I learned in this camp in my future.

Luna Espinosa (Earl Warren): I'd like to give you the most genuine thank you for selecting me to go to camp. This was such an amazingly incredible opportunity and I feel so, so special to be in this position. This has been the best camp I've ever been to. I've been waiting for this since March, and now it's all over. I met so many great people and created even more relationships. I learned so much in Anatomy, especially with the fetal piggy dissection which was so cute. I loved to make the lung model which was really simple but looked so complicated! I have never, ever extracted a fetal pig out of a uterus before. That was exciting. And the workshops too! Wow, I really enjoyed physics, life skills and Zumba. The Viasat field trip was my favorite with the swim night. The School of Medicine was sooo funny and entertaining with the realistic dummy, Victoria, and her damaged newborn. Overall, thanks so much again for giving me the chance to bloom. I appreciate you infinitely.

Sarah Strasberg (*Pacific Trails*): Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek! I am having one of the best experiences of my life this week! One activity I particularly enjoyed was soldering to make LED lights blink, in the Physics workshop. I really liked this activity because I found it fun to solder, and to put all the parts in the Flasher puzzle. Eventually, I was rewarded with blinking lights. I never knew how to make LEDs blink, and, thanks to you, I learned.

Another activity I found fun was in Robotics. It was learning how to code and wire Servos. I liked that I got to code, and immediately saw physically what I coded. This was

something I hadn't experienced before Tech Trek. Finally, Stress Management was an activity I enjoyed very much. I learned very useful tips to help me in life. I really liked it because I found it very calming.

Again, thank you so much to the Del Mar Leucadia branch for bringing me here!!

Ava Newton (*Diegueno*): Thank you soooooo much for sending me to Tech Trek at UCSD! This week was an amazing experience I will never forget.

I loved my core class, forensics, with Mrs. Dwynn. It was very interesting to learn about fingerprints and how everyone has different fingerprints. I also really enjoyed staying in the dorms with all my new friends.

Tech Trek has made a big influence on my life. I'm more open, confident, and positive. In fact, I think when I grow up I want to get a job in technology. I cannot thank you enough for sending me to Tech Trek.

Sydney Rhine (*Oak Crest*): I never thought I would be here at Tech Trek. When I was first offered the opportunity to be sponsored I never thought I would be chosen. But thanks to you, I get to live my dream and finally learn about the things that interest me, STEM, in-depth, surrounded by other like-minded girls. I have been given the greatest gift possible and I will forever be grateful to your branch for believing in me and supporting me in my journey towards my future career in STEM. Thank you so much for your support.

As we have not fully completed our week, I cannot compare all the activities and classes yet, however, some experiences I've enjoyed thus far include a panel of female speakers, our trip to Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and our field trip to Viasat. I enjoyed the panel of female speakers because we heard about their jobs! Civil engineers, an architect, a nano-engineer, a mechanical engineer, and a forensics scientist, and the details of their daily work as well as the challenges they've faced because they were women. I loved the fact that women could be so successful and I'm grateful as it caused to me to consider some of them as possible career choices. I also enjoyed going down to Scripps to the pier because I learned about and animals. I was greatly intrigued by the equipment we viewed on the pier and the interactive geology lesson on the beach in addition to the air-conditioned volcano lesson where I learned about the different kinds of volcanoes and how Hollywood often over-exaggerates volcanic eruptions. Finally, I found it super interesting to take a tour of Viasat as we did multiple activities, not just one, like coding, robotics, and a tour of their lab as well. A panel of female Viasat workers shared information about their jobs and I was particularly ecstatic about finally learning what the internet is, that it's almost like a library of information that you can plug into that is projected into space via satellite.

Overall, this has been an incredible experience and I'm so happy I've made lifelong connections with other female STEM candidates and the ability to experience different fields in the scientific community. Thank you for working with Tech Trek to encourage young girls along the path of science, technology, math and engineering and I hope you continue to support other generations of girls in the future.

Lexi Worms (*Earl Warren*): Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek at UCSD. I really enjoyed meeting driven girls that shared the same interests as me This was an experience I'll never forget.

My core class was Forensics with Js. Famalette (Dwynn). We learned so many things with her that would be applicable in a Forensics career. During Tech Trek, not only did I learn a lot, but I also met amazing girls and made some fantastic friends.

Overall, this opened my eyes to lots of STEM careers (like forensic science) that I'd never thought of pursuing and I loved meeting professional women who inspired me. Because of Tech Trek, I feel more confident in my ability to continue with STEM, and I am honored that I was chosen for this life-changing opportunity.

Shea Kangleon (*Carmel Valley*): Thank you so much for sending me to Tech Trek! I am so incredibly grateful that you sponsored me, because this opportunity is one that I will always remember. You have enabled me to flourish tremendously as a female in STEM, allowed my eyes to open, and truly see all of the abilities that women possess. Tech Trek illustrated to me the endless career paths that we can walk on, and showed me how a single interest, a question, and wonder can make the world a far better place .Henceforth, I thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for sponsoring me.

This week, we did an abundance of extremely enjoyable activities! For instance, we did a strawberry DNA lab activity during Chemistry, where we made a strawberry mash, and used several chemicals to separate the DNA from the strawberries. Moreover, we were able to drive to the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, in which we were informed about volcanoes, the layers of the Earth, the causes of the tides and waves, erosion and deposition. We also went to college prep and financial literacy, and we learned substantially critical information about school and managing money that we can utilize for the rest of our lives.

Tech Trek was one of the most exciting and informative experiences and I have had an extravagance of intriguing information instilled in me. I cannot thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to take part in this wonderous adventure. Now, I have an improved outlook on our Earth. It is a planet that I can bring up from the ashes, or a world that I can make brighter and more glorious, all thanks to you. Thank you so much, and I look forward to sharing more of my journey with you in September.

Nayeli Yanez (*Oak Crest*): I would like to gravely and sincerely thank you for allowing me to have this unique opportunity. At camp I was introduced to new subjects such as the specific concepts of engineering, which was my core class .I also really enjoyed getting to have a variety of different classes every day because it helped to increase my range of skills and knowledge, which I think will be helpful in the future. I think that knowing even only the basics of the subject will make it easier to decide career picks. The last thing I really enjoyed about camp was getting to know new people. Getting to spend so much time together helped to improve my people skills. I sincerely thank you for giving me this opportunity.