

## AAUW Laguna Beach Tech Trek 2021

Given the pandemic, Tech Trek 2021 camps were held virtually in June and July of 2021. Thanks to the Laguna Beach branch, five Venado Middle School students attended one of the weeklong camps.

This year's camp centered on a morning project involving robotics, engineering and coding, with the overarching goal to create an individual piece of "Wearable Tech" (which usually manifested as a fancy moving hat)! After lunch, the campers heard from inspirational women for an hour, then participated in one or more 90-minute hands-on or interactive science, technology, engineering and math workshops.

The three Virtual Tech Trek camps ended successfully for 600+ students thanks to the leadership team and over 250 branch members and prior campers who volunteered to be technical or social coaches, 'adults in the room' and logistics coordinators. Here are some reactions to their camp experiences in the words of the five Venado Middle School TT campers.

"I just wanted to take the time to thank you. I had such an amazing time! And the camp was so organized and interesting. Definitely beyond my expectations and more fun than school :)"

~Anisha



Dear AAUW Laguna Beach Branch,  
My name is Anisha, and I just wanted to take the time to thank you for everything you've done to make TechTrek possible in our area!

When I heard I got in to the camp, I was so excited but also a little worried about the fact that camp was online. However, I had such an amazing time! And the camp was so organized and interesting. Definitely beyond my expectations and more fun than school :)

Overall, I really really appreciate the fact that you all took the time to bring such an inspiring camp to this area. I will always be grateful for the people that made, and continue to make, this tech trek experience possible for so many girls.

Sincerely,  
Anisha :)

"Thank you for the wonderful opportunity that you gave me. Tech Trek has been an amazing experience that's taught me many things that I know I'll carry with me through middle school, high school, college and later in life."

~Ankita



AAUW Laguna Beach Branch,

I would like to thank you for the wonderful opportunity that you gave me. Tech Trek has been an amazing experience that's taught me many things that I know I'll carry with me through middle school, high school, college, and later on in life. This week is certainly one I'll always remember. Thank you to all the directors, coordinators, and coaches for everything!

"Thank you for this amazing experience. I really had an awesome time, learning from different directors, women in STEAM, and from other campers as well. There was no other summer camp like this."

~Cecilia



Dear Esther Hessong and the Laguna Beach Branch,  
My name is Cecilia Susanto, and I was in Tech Trek in Camp 2. I would like to thank you for this amazing experience that I got to have this summer! Thank you for providing all our camper fees and making this camp possible! I really had an awesome time, learning from different directors, women in STEAM, and from other campers as well. The lessons I learned, the skills I was taught, my new strengths and values, would never have happened without your help! Again, thank you for your help and providing the fees for the campers and supplies! There was no other summer camp like this, and I'm extremely grateful! Have a wonderful rest of your day and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Best Regards  
Cecilia

"I am so thankful for the work you have put into make sure I was provided with the right materials to enjoy my duration at Tech Trek camp. I wouldn't have been able to create the things I did without the materials. Thank you!"

~Shivani



(No photo available)

Dear AAUW Laguna Beach Branch:  
I am so thankful for the work you have put in to make sure I was provided with the right materials to enjoy my duration at Tech Trek Camp. I wouldn't have been able to create the things that I did without the materials, of which the pick-up you organized very well. And I would especially like to thank Esther Hessong for staying in contact with my parents and I when we were going through various technological challenges in the process of signing up. Overall, this has been an extremely challenging year, but everyone involved in this branch fought through it to ensure so many girls' success at camp. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Shivani Joshi :)

~Mannat



Each camper received a fun AAUW Tech Trek swag like a USB bracelet, water bottle and shirt, and supplies for all of their STEM activities! Special thanks to Qualcomm for providing the circuitry kits and supplies for making the wearable tech!



Tech Trek Materials



Qualcomm Materials



Tech Trek Swag