

Gold Filings



Special Tech Trek Report, October 2020

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Local Women and Girls Benefit from AAUW Amador Scholarships

by Sue Harrington

A big thank you to Gretchen Carlson, Kathy Guletz and Anna Jones Williams for using their connections with these young women to obtain their stories and the great photographs!

For the past 44 years, the Amador Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has awarded scholarships to local women and girls. The funds have been primarily raised through the annual Home Tour and as it became more successful, the amount for scholarships increased as well as the types of scholarships offered.

Scholarships are available for Community College, Upper Division/Graduate Students and Re-entry Students.

In 2002, the Branch started sending between two and seven girls to Tech Trek, a camp held each summer designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in young women who will enter eighth grade in the fall. The camp is held at a college or university and includes hands-on classes and field trips designed to explore a variety of STEM fields of study – science, technology, engineering, math - in a nurturing environment, taught by women professionally employed in these fields.

The Branch contacted previous scholarship recipients to learn how their scholarships benefited them and to recognize them for their accomplishments.

Tech Trek Scholarships

Chelsea Tinsley attended the Tech Trek camp in 2004. She completed a Bachelor's of Science in Biological Sciences at Cal



Chelsea Tinsley

Poly with an emphasis on Human Anatomy and Physiology. After graduation she dabbled in different jobs as a Laboratory Scientist and a caregiver for Hospice patients. Thanks to a mentor, she made the decision to go to nursing school and never looked back. She graduated from Oregon Health and Science University with a Bachelor's in Nursing, and is currently working her dream job as a Labor Delivery and Postpartum RN. Chelsea comments, "Reflecting back on the opportunity that I had to participate in Tech Trek, I now realize that I was fortunate to have had access to so many female mentors in the sciences from such an early age; and without knowing it at the time, they were taking me under their wing along with so many other young girls to empower and inspire us to be the change they wanted to see for women in STEM."



Breanne Orey

Breanne Orey was a member of the 2008 Tech Trek camp. Her memories include extracting strawberry DNA and holding it in a necklace she still owns. Because of the new and different experiences, she had while attending Tech Trek, Breanne says, "Ever since then, I've sought after new opportunities similar to Tech Trek where I could visit new places, meet new people, and learn so much!" Breanne graduated from UC Merced in 2016 with a Bachelor's in Psychology and Minor in Sociology. Then graduated from Roehampton University, London in 2017 with a MSc in Sport and Exercise Psychology. In September of 2019, she started a new job as Manager of Special Projects and Operations for USA Shooting at the Olympic and Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. She also works part-time as a mindset coach with a company called Willing Mindset allowing her to use her Master's degree working with athletes around the country. Her goal is to tie her career at the Olympic and Paralympic Training Center with her mindset coaching experience and work with Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

Anastasia Karnaze attended Tech Trek in the summer of 2011. In June, 2020, she graduated with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine. This fall she is entering grad school at San Jose State University working towards a M.S. in Biomedical Engineering with a concentration in Medical Devices. She plans to focus on building and designing medical devices, which is her passion. In her own words, Anastasia describes her Tech Trek experience: "Tech Trek changed my perspective on science; I learned just how fun and exciting it could be! I think that was the catalyst that pushed me to pursue more STEM-oriented classes in high school, and eventually led me to find my love of biomedical engineering! I am beyond grateful to Tech Trek!"

Another 2011 Tech Trek participant, **Melodie Hansen**, is a college junior working on a Computer Science degree at Brigham Young University - Idaho. She will be attending classes again when it is safe to do so. About her Tech Trek experience, Melodie says, "All of the classes there were interesting and engaging, but one part that really stood out was the introduction to scratch, the children's programming language. I liked the ways that the teachers there were able to take complex ideas and simplify them in a way that made sense to me. And then after we learned a new concept, we were able to apply it in an engaging and interactive way."

2018 Tech Trekker, **Emily Lickiss** says, "One of the biggest influences of Tech Trek on me was seeing all the successful women on career night. It helped me to not only learn more about what I want to do when I grow up, but it also showed me all the possibilities."

Lillian Fawver attended Tech Trek in 2019 and says of her experience, "Tech Trek had an amazing influence on me. I realized

that there were other girls out there that are like me: introverted and inspired to learn!”

The 2020 Tech Trek event was cancelled but they are resuming summer 2021 virtually. We hope the 2022 Tech Trek will be able to be held in person.

Please Consider Making a Tax Deductible Contribution to the Tech Trek Scholarship Program

As a Branch, we are so proud of the girls and women who have used their scholarship opportunities to further their education and begin successful careers. Congratulations to each of them.

Fund raising has taken on a new look for most organizations this year. It is currently not safe to conduct events like the Home Tour, but we appreciate the support of our members to help continue our scholarship program by donating to the AAUW Scholarship Fund. Contributions can be made through the Amador Community Foundation using the Donate button on our website at <https://amador-ca.aauw.net/> or sending a check to: AAUW Scholarship Fund, P.O. 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685.

Another opportunity for donating will be on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2020 through the Amador Community Foundation.



AAUW Amador (CA) Branch | PO Box 611, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

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