

Tech Trek Central Oregon

Final report for Grants and Sponsorships

The first year of Tech Trek Central Oregon camp was truly amazing. Taking place from July 23-29 at OSU-Cascades, 36 young ladies entering 8th grade in September who had an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Math (STEM) were introduced to career paths they probably never thought about. The communities in Central Oregon, especially Bend, Prinneville and Redmond supported the camp by providing funding, professional women in STEM as role models, and as field trips for the girls to view STEM careers in action.

Every morning the campers attended a core class, either in Cyber Security or Engineering. These classes went in-depth including hands-on projects that were showcased at our closing brunch on Saturday. The girls designed and built fish ladders in the engineering class and learned binary code well enough to create beaded bracelets with their names in binary code. The final project for Cyber Security was presenting their views on how far security in the internet should go and who should monitor it.

STEM women provided workshops for the girls to get in-depth and hands-on in specific areas such as building a solar oven and using it, programming a robotic, learning about the eclipse, how to clone and propagate plants, electrical and chemical engineering, making good decisions, having confidence in life - particularly while pursuing STEM careers, building a zoetrope and discovering how film is made, an introduction to money matters, how to ask good questions, the mathematics of lighting in photography, and working with polymers.

Our field trips included learning about medical careers you don't generally think of and taking vitals on themselves as well as a robotic dummy at St. Charles Medical Center, learning about the geology of Central Oregon from a Professor of Geology at OSU-Cascades with a tour of Lava Lands, touring the water systems of Bend both the water purification plant and the sanitation plant, the fish ladder and watershed science at Tumalo Creek, and learning about our forests from the Bureau of Land Management. We also viewed the movie "Hidden Figures" in Prinneville.

Back at OSU-Cascades we had a special visit from Florence Nightingale who transformed the girls back in time over 100 years ago to the medical care and career choices for women. We had fun too, with lawn games, water gun contests, ice cream sundaes, a birthday party for a camper, and learning about body language.

Each evening the girls had time to write in their journals about what they experienced during that day to keep as a reminder of where they can go and what they can do in STEM fields. I've attached the full schedule so you can see how busy we kept the girls.

On Wednesday evening we had 30 Professional Women join us for a "speed networking" event. The girls were provided with bios on each of the women ahead of time so they could formulate questions they wanted to ask. The girls moved from one to the next woman, learning about their career, the education required, their family life and how their career impacts it, and anything else on their minds. The women said it was a wonderful experience and the girls were overwhelmed with the information they received.

We received media coverage in newspapers throughout Central Oregon, as well as several interviews on KPOV radio. I have also attached links to some of the news articles. We are available to provide live presentations on the camp and learning activities to any group or organization interested in having one of the camp staff and several of the campers. I can also provide you with photos of camp on request.

Next year we will double the number of campers, making Tech Trek available to 72 girls entering 8th grade in September 2018. Of course our budget will double as well and we are hoping we can count on your support again. The following year we will be at our full capacity of 100 campers and will continue annually at that number.

The response from both the students and their parents after attending camp proved, again, that Tech Trek is needed and much appreciated by the families of our next generation of STEM women.

The interest in Tech Trek has been far beyond what we had hoped for, with the possibility of opening new camps in several other areas of Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim DeBroux

Kim DeBroux
2017 Tech Trek Central Oregon Camp Co-Director
kimdebroux@yahoo.com
714-914-1078

Media Links:

<http://cascadibusnews.com/aauw-oregon-host-dynamic-math-science-camp-girls-oregon-state-university-cascades-campus/>

<http://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/5476895-158/tech-trek-gives-girls-hands-on-science-experiences>

<http://www.mycentraloregon.com/2017/07/31/girls-from-10-central-oregon-middle-schools-attend-tech-trek-camp/>

<http://crookcounty.k12.or.us/2017/07/27/inspiring-girls-to-pursue-stem-fields-as-career-choices/>

<https://bendchamber.org/community/tech-trek-camp-receives-grants/>

<http://cascadibusnews.com/additional-funding-secured-tech-trek-camp/>

<http://opencampus.oregonstate.edu/tech-treck/>

<http://cascadibusnews.com/tech-trek-camp-empowers-girls-stem-fields/>

