

Press Release Oct. 26, 2021

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AAUW Tech Trek Students Talk About Virtual Camp

Summer 2021 Tech Trek student scholars from East Jefferson County met with AAUW Port Townsend members in October to tell about their experiences at the July virtual camp. Normally, they would have attended a week-long in-person camp on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University Tacoma, but the pandemic caused AAUW to pivot and hold a virtual camp for students from across the state. The local AAUW branch foundation (UWF of East Jefferson County) gave scholarships to 16 young women to attend.

Chimacum Middle School

Calia Corden

Layla Franson

Amber Holdaway

Emily McPhee

Tessa Richardson

Anya Self-Lobosco

Brooke Tomasetti

Blue Heron Middle School

Zinnia Berg

Sienna Emerson

Michael Gregg

Juliet Harrison

Zella Mack

Isabella Nunn

Dilery Salcedo

Tallulah Sebastian

Quilcene Middle School

Anna Munn

AAUW sponsors Tech Trek camps in many states nationwide. The camp is designed around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to increase interest, excitement and self-confidence in young women who will enter the eighth grade in the fall. It features hands-on learning and focuses on current hot topics for career exploration. In normal years, the six-night sleep away camp utilizes the college's dorms, laboratories, recreation and dining facilities. Each day students attend one core class and various hands-on labs taught by college-level teachers. They have a choice of field trips and there are professional guest speakers who are women in STEM fields. During the 2021 virtual camp there was a new class called Financial Beginnings introducing financial literacy.

AAUW believes that middle school is an important time to engage young women to enhance their education in the STEM fields. This is a time when girls interested in STEM often feel "out of place" with peers that may not be interested in the sciences, math or engineering. Attending a Tech Trek Camp allows them to express their ideas freely in the environment of like-minded

girls and teachers. The core classes offered allow them to choose what interests them. They learn how to build and design, work together on teams, and are motivated to seek higher education goals.

Starting in January 2022 AAUW Port Townsend members look forward to begin working with middle school teachers to nominate 7th grade students for a LIVE camp in July of 2022.

Hear first hand from the 2021 Jefferson County students and their families about how they fared in a week-long ZOOM camp and see a video summary of 2021 Virtual Camp:

<https://pt-wa.aauw.net/2021/09/27/2021-tech-trek-campers-jefferson-county/>

Contact techtrek@aauwpt.org with any questions.

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Original photos available

Photos suggested:



East Jefferson County Tech Trek campers receive their class materials from AAUW



Tessa Richardson from Chimacum Middle

School

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Contact techtrek@aauwpt.org - Leslie Roubal - 360-908-2005

Leslie was a teaching assistant during the July 2021 camp, so she has first-hand experience as well.