TECH TREK STUDENTS RECEPTION

Tech Trek is a summer camp for middle school girls, in the summer between their 7th and 8th grade years. Tech Trek began in California 20 years ago, to encourage young girls to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education opportunities. They spend a week at a Tech Trek Summer Camp held on a College Campus close to their home. The Tech Trek Program is now nationwide, and we are proud to have been sponsoring girls for 20 years.

The process begins as our committee contacts the local schools, requesting referrals from teachers of students who may be interested, followed by completion of applications, interviews, assessment, and finally, the selection of candidates. Nineteen 7th grade girls, representing six Junior High Schools, who were nominated by their math/science teachers completed the application and wrote an essay.

We interviewed all and selected the following:

Jennifer Cabrera—McKenzie

Donna Cantu—McKenzie

Mariah Gonzales—Arellanes

Mariana Gonzales—Kunst

Juliana Ingente—El Camino

Kimberly Navarete—McKenzie

Abigail Noppenberg—Lakeview

Edna Ortiz—El Camino

Natalie Ramos—Fesler

Katherine Sutterfield—Fesler

This is the first year we have been given ten slots for the camp, which is held at the UCSB (University of Calif, Santa Barbara) Campus. The girls will spend a

week in the dorms, sharing their experiences with girls from Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpenteria, Lompoc, and Vandenberg.

A reception was held at the Santa Maria Lawn Bowl Clubhouse on Sunday, June 3, 2018, to allow the girls to meet one another and to meet with girls who have previously attended the camp. Their families and our members were invited to meet the girls and offer support on this new adventure. The girls are then invited to come to our September meeting to share their experiences.

There are few things that can bring one joy, and listening to young girls in their animated conversations with other girls, filled with laughter and curiosity, is one of those things.