

The three seventh grade Tech Trek campers representing the Fremont Branch, who experienced six wonderful days at Sonoma State University in late June, write enthusiastically about their stellar time away.

“I will never forget,” writes Kaitlin Cummings of Newark Junior High School, “the experiences that I had at the camp.” Some of her favorite events, she adds, were the Mission to Mars at Chabot (a field trip they took during the week) and Professional Women’s Night.

“This was an amazing opportunity for me,” enthuses Vanuyen Pham of Our Lady of Guadalupe. “We participated in hands-on experiences such as building roller coasters. My favorite experience was looking at constellations through telescopes.”

Finally Emily Holmes of Horner Junior High passes along her delight at the experience she had. “Thanks again. You all are so great!”

After months of work on behalf of AAUW Fremont Branch, member Harriet Despeaux, who is in charge of our branch’s Tech Trek program this year, and the members of our chapter and the others who worked as dorm moms during the week at Sonoma State, can happily report on a fabulous week of science-related activities for the seventh graders.

Tech Trek is a labor of love for leader Harriet. “I love kids and don’t have children of my own,” she says. “This is a great way of keeping in touch with young people and having a great time in the process.”

Seeing the young girls through the week of exciting hands-on science training is just the tip of the iceberg in the process of selecting Tech Trek girls for the honor of being campers.

Harriet and her team interviewed 21 applicants from six schools throughout the Tri-City area. The girls are recommended by their seventh grade math and science teachers and a coterie of Fremont Branch women interviewed them all in order to select the three winning girls.

The Tech Trek leader would like to thank branch members Marylouise Bailey, Shelley Ann Bartley, Jill Bennett, Rita Hammer, Margaret Hartmann, JoAnn Houk, Alison Kieft, Christine Lin, Janice Longo, Emily Riebold and Florence Silver who spent hours interviewing girls with their parents.

Harriet would like to remind members that this valuable experience for girls is supported by our donations. It costs the branch \$800 per girl. We had enough this year to send three seventh graders to enjoy the camp. She hopes, thanks to your donations, to send even more next year.

Harriet sums up the Tech Trek happening for her, the girls and all the volunteers this way: "It was an awesome experience!"