

Tech Trek Fresno Camp Report for 2013

Campers: 74

Dorm Moms: 6

Counselors: 8

Teachers: 8

Directors: 2

Nurse: 1

We had two new teachers this year and three new dorm moms. One of our former counselors (a camper from Whittier) graduated to teach the robotics class, which was great. Three counselors returned from previous years, while 5 of the counselors were new. Luckily no campers went home early due to illness, although our nurse was kept busy as usual.

Core Classes:

Each student is assigned one math and one science core class. These classes meet 4 days for an hour and a half each day.

Art in Math: Campers learn how mathematics applies to a variety of art projects, including string art, perspective, and mobiles. Students built these art projects and calculated or discussed the math behind them. Teacher: Ashley Martin

Robotics: Campers used the Lego Mindstorm robotics kits to build and program their own robot to do a variety of different tasks. Teacher: Kirsten Van (former camper)

Women Rock in Mathematics: Campers got to investigate many of the historical discoveries and games/tricks done by mathematicians through the ages. In addition, they research and present on a famous female mathematician. Teacher: Becky Sheets

CSI: Campers use science and observation to solve a mock crime. Teacher: Lori Salazar

Chemistry: Campers perform a variety of chemistry experiments, including pH testing and using high-tech equipment to track and graph temperature changes. Teacher: Rosann Wattonville

Roller Coaster Physics: Students explore Newton's three laws of motion and build a roller coaster out of foam piping for a marbel to travel. They also built Newton cars. Teacher: Jackie Eiffert

Labs:

Each lab lasted two and a half hours (except for canoeing, which was the entire morning).

Canoeing: An always popular field trip, half the time is spent learning team work by canoeing, the other half was spent exploring ecology on the banks of the river.

Scratch Programming: Campers learn basic programming techniques and manipulation of objects. Teacher: Rebecca Jennings

Geopanes: Campers explore geometry and shapes using soap bubbles as faces of various two- and three-dimensional shapes. Teacher: Sue Jennings

Other highlights:

Our week is packed full of other activities. We go to the bowling alley on campus, make a trip to the university planetarium, and have fun at the pool. We spend Thursday morning at the Chaffee Zoo, where campers got to go behind the scenes to really see how a zoo works. We had six professional women talk about their careers and experiences in math and science fields, and play a lot of games to fill in the gaps.

We also do a large project that involves building two-liter bottle rockets and launching them on Friday morning. As part of the project, the girls are put into teams of three, where each person has a specific job. They must purchase building supplies within a budget and fill out purchasing orders and checks in order to do so. They also must build test rockets to decide how they will design and build their own rocket. We launch them Friday before lunch.

On Friday night we have our Talent Show, which is always popular. Each dorm group performs a skit together that they spend a lot of time through the week practicing. Individuals also perform, but the girls are encouraged to work together. There is also the always popular counselor skit, where one girl from each group impersonates their counselor.