

# Tech Trek at SWOSU Receives \$5,000 from Devon Energy for Math and Science Camp

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Erica Ayers of El Reno is one of the girls who has experienced Tech Trek at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. The week-long summer math and science camp for girls recently received \$5,000 from Devon Energy to support the third year of the event.

Tech Trek at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford recently received \$5,000 from Devon Energy to support the third year of the week-long summer math and science camp for girls.

Tech Trek is designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in young women entering the eighth grade. The long-term goal of the camp is to increase participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“The generous sponsors such as Devon Energy allow us to bring this transformational STEM opportunity to girls from across Oklahoma and introduce them to career opportunities found in the energy industry and other STEM fields,” said Camp Director Dr. Lisa Appeddu.

SWOSU President Randy Beutler said the university greatly appreciates the commitment of Devon Energy to the Tech Trek program at SWOSU.

“This generous donation supports a highly successful program that each year develops interest, excitement and self-confidence for young women in math, science and related fields,” Beutler said.

Tech Trek was founded in 1998 by the California American Association of University Women (AAUW) and, over the past 16 years, Tech Trek camps have expanded to eight college campuses across California to serve more than 9,000 girls. Due to Tech Trek’s success, AAUW created a national pilot program to include four states (including Oklahoma) in 2013, seven states in 2014 and nine states (11 sites) in 2015. The Weatherford branch of the AAUW was chosen to host Tech Trek in collaboration with SWOSU for a third consecutive year. This year’s camp will be held June 7-13 for 40 campers from across Oklahoma.

“We are pleased and proud to support Tech Trek,” said Christina Rehkop, community relations supervisor in Oklahoma for Devon. “Science and technology are essential to our business success, so we want to encourage the next generation of students to develop interests that might lead to future careers in our industry.”

Generous sponsors such as Devon Energy allow AAUW to offer this camp at little cost to the campers. Campers engage in hands-on STEM workshops including engineering, geology, robotics, math, chemistry, writing apps and more. The university experience also allows girls to see themselves seeking higher education and realizing the opportunities that come with a college degree.

For more information about the camp and how to help, please email [tehtrek@swosu.edu](mailto:tehtrek@swosu.edu) or visit the website: <http://tehtrek-ok.aauw.net/>