

TTAG NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2025



2025-2026 TTAG SCHOLARSHIP

About the TTAG Scholarship

Established in the Spring of 2021, and in furtherance of the TTAG goal of enabling Tech Trek Alumnae to pursue their interest in STEM, the TTAG Scholarship offers Tech Trek Alumnae who are members of the AAUW-SF TTAG up to \$16,000 over 4 years to support their college related expenses as they attend college.

Eligibility & General Rules

- Applicant must be a graduating High School Senior (at a public, private, or charter high school) and must be an active member of AAUW-SF TTAG. TTAG members currently enrolled in college and meeting other eligibility criteria may apply.
- Scholarship amount is \$4,000/year and will be disbursed directly to the Applicant upon proof of college enrollment as a full-time student at an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or institution (local, statewide or nationwide).
- Scholarship shall be exclusively used for education and college-related expenses (tuition, laptop, books, school supplies, software, etc.). The TTAG Scholarship Committee reserves the right to request proof of expenses.
- Scholarship is renewable for up to 3 years upon demonstration of successful academic progress (GPA, grades, class completion, etc.), official transcript and **dependent on availability of scholarship funds.**

How to Apply as a high school senior

1. Please fill in the [Application Form](#)
2. Upload the following pdf documents in section 7 of the Application Form:
 - A 250- to 750-word essay: you can use your Common App essay or create your own. If you use your own, make sure to provide an essay that would inform the TTAG Scholarship Committee of who you are, where you want to go, and why.
 - A document with the answer (250 word max.) to 2 of the following Questions:
 - Question 1: How have you contributed to TTAG as a member?
 - Question 2: What did you do during your last school break?
 - Question 3: How have you contributed to improving, supporting, or spreading the word on issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion ?
 - You are welcome to include a copy of your Common App, UC or CSU Application, or Application to your preferred college (optional)
 - Your resume or equivalent (list of activities, LinkedIn, website, etc.) if you choose not to attach your Common App
3. Alternatively, the pdf documents can be separately emailed to aauwsfbranch@gmail.com using "TTAG Scholarship Application" in the subject line.
4. All documents should be received by **February 17, 2025 - 11:59 PM PST to be considered**

How to Apply or Renew as a college student

1. Please fill in the [Application Form](#)
2. Upload the following pdf documents in section 7 of the Application Form:
 - A 250- to 750-word essay that would inform the TTAG Scholarship Committee of who you are at this point of your college experience, where you want to go, and why.
 - A document with the answer (250 word max.) to 2 of the following Questions:
 - Question 1: How have you contributed this past year as a Tech Trek Alumna on campus?
 - Question 2: What did you do this past summer to advance at a personal, academic, and/or professional level?
 - Question 3: How have you contributed to improving, supporting, or spreading the word on issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion ?
 - Your resume or equivalent (list of activities, LinkedIn, website, etc.)
 - Copy of your current transcript (or equivalent document) as proof of academic progress and achievement

3. Alternatively, email the pdf documents to aauwsfbranch@gmail.com using “TTAG Scholarship Application” in the subject line
4. All documents should be received by February 17, 2025 - 11:59 PM PST to be considered

Timeline

Application Due Date: February 17, 2025 - 11:59 PM PST

Application Review: February 18 - April 15, 2025

Selection Notification: April 15, 2025

Release of Funds: by June 30th, 2025

Questions

Please email your questions to: aauwsfbranch@gmail.com using TTAG Scholarship in the subject line

TTAG ANNOUNCEMENTS

Exploratorium Behind the Scenes Visit - What did people think?

“Relatable”
“Empowering”
“Insightful”
“Engaging”



Photo Credit: Karla Rosen, Healdsburg TTAG

TTAG STATEMENT- Calista Leung (Events Coordinator)

“I thoroughly enjoyed my experience visiting the Exploratorium. I went on a biology tour, where we learned about life sciences and the different organisms living within the facility. I truly enjoyed learning about how the staff takes care of the plants and the variety of creatures taken care of within the area. Additionally, a STEM panel was held where a variety of empowering women talked about their diverse careers. I enjoyed how one of them is still in school giving us students a similar perspective and understanding but also talking about the struggle. This made the conversation more relatable and enjoyable. With the ending being exploring the exploratorium galleries, I ended up learning so much while also having fun throughout the day with the different activities provided.”



Photo Credits: Maggy Kepler

TTAG STATEMENT - Diane Meyers (Healdsburg TTAG Advisor)

“Overall, I feel the experience shared with the girls was outstanding! I spoke with one of our Healdsburg TTAG girls who said she and another board member really enjoyed sharing notes with a SF-TTAG member over lunch. Visiting the labs was a definite highlight. One girl said that if she could work in the development lab everyday, tinkering with all the tools and materials, she would have died and gone to heaven!!! And listening to the stories shared by the panel volunteer offered an exceptional insight into the demands, rewards and challenges of a career in science and engineering from a woman's perspective. An all around great event!”

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible!

WANT TO ASSIST in TECH TREK INTERVIEWS?

When: Saturday and/or Sunday, March 15 - 16, from 10-4 PM - 2 hr slots available

Who: TTAG and TTAG parents

Where: in person - Junior League Headquarters - 2226A Fillmore St - San Francisco, CA 94115

What: to assist in interviewing 7th grade Tech Trek applicants and their parents, and assist with parents' questions.

Register by March 1st: wendorfr@aol.com

WANT TO BE A TECH TREK PEER COUNSELOR THIS SUMMER?

When: ASAP

Who: Tech Trek Alumnae - minimum age requirements are: 14 yo for Virtual Camp Coach - 16 yo or 3 years out of camp for Residential Peer Counselors - 18 yo for Lead Peer Counselors

Apply at Campdoc ASAP: : <http://app.campdoc.com/register/aauw>

Contact: rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com or wendorfr@aol.com if you apply

LOOKING FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS TRANSLATORS

When: Tech Trek Application season (Around March)

Who: Tech Trek Alumnae & TTAG parents

Where: at home at your leisure, maybe once during a zoom presentation

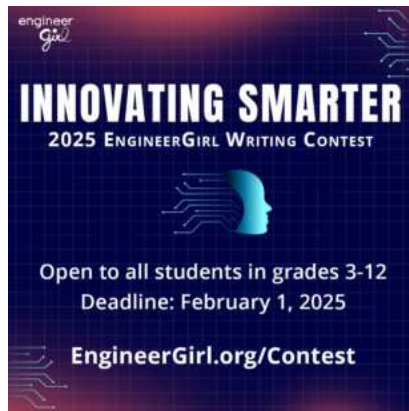
What: translate one page of Tech Trek related instructions or letters, or connect with Spanish speaking parents at the interviews (March 16 and 17) or outside of interviews

Contact: rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com or roliwendorf@gmail.com

STEM ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Engineering 2025 Writing Contest: Innovating Smarter



Who: All grades 3-12

What: Looking for something to do over winter break? Check out this engineering writing contest, open to all students in grades 3-12. The 2025 EngineerGirl Writing Contest invites students to write a piece describing a common object you would make "smart." Cash prizes to top winners.

Deadline: February 1, 2025

Apply/More info here:

<https://www.engineergirl.org/154382/2025-Writing-Contest-Innovating-Smarter>

Hidden Brain: An Evening with Shankar Vedantam

Who: All

What: Are there parts of our minds that are hidden from us? This question launched the Hidden Brain podcast ten years ago. Since then, the program has helped millions of listeners accomplish their goals, improve their relationships, and develop a deeper understanding of their emotions.

Where: Curran Theatre 445 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

When: Sunday February 2, at 7PM

Apply/More info here: <https://www.kqed.org/event/4928>

Human Hibernation: Is it Possible for Space Flight?

Who: All

What: Sci-Fi movies often depict hibernation as the secret to long-duration human spaceflight. (Note: Even with ideal starship acceleration and deceleration ?? AND with the benefit of relativistic effects ?? The nearest exoplanet is 3.6 YEARS away!) Of course, the boundary between science fiction and science fantasy is hazy. Advances in anesthesia may facilitate hibernation. Physiologically, however, general anesthesia is detrimental in the short term, and worse in the long term. Will long-spaceflight medical advances ever be able to deal with this sobering hibernation fact that roughly

half of naturally-hibernating animals never revive? Join us to find out. Bring your questions and your curiosity!

Where: Terra Linda High School 320 Nova Albion Way, Innovation Hub
San Rafael, California

When: Wednesday, February 5th, from 7:30 – 8:30pm

Apply/More info here:

<https://marinsscienceseminar.com/human-hibernation-is-it-possible-for-space-flight/>

Foothills Family Nature Walk

Who: Intended for kids aged 6 and up (Children must be accompanied by an adult)

What: Environmental Volunteers' Family Nature Walks program is designed to help community members get to know our local open space areas. Small groups will be guided by a knowledgeable environmental educator during an exploration of a local open space. These small groups will be introduced to fun nature-based activities, and a chance to learn more about the plants and animals all around us. Join us for some fun, outdoor learning!

Where: Los Altos

When: Saturday 8th, from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Apply/More info here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-nature-walks-at-foothills-nature-preserve-20242025-tickets-1138464470879>

Jazz Under the Stars

Who: Children welcome

What: Jazz Under the Stars is a FREE monthly public stargazing event! Occurring on the Saturday nearest the 1st quarter moon, join us for a night of smooth jazz, bright stars, and a lot of fun!

Where: San Mateo

When: Saturday 8th, from 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Apply/More info here: <https://collegeofsanmateo.edu/astronomy/observatory.asp>

International Women's day event

Who: all

What: Celebrate women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math on International Women's Day! Design, build, and test hands-on engineering activities with the UC Berkeley chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. This national non-profit organization celebrates the achievement of non-male individuals as leaders

and engineers.

Where: Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley

When: Saturday 03/09 from 11 am - 3pm

Apply/More info here:

<https://lawrencehallofscience.org/events/international-womens-day/>

GWC Challenge 2024-25: AI + Sustainability



Who: Ages 13-18

What: To make big changes, we need big ideas. Girls Who Code Challenges are an opportunity for you to think big about a global issue, then prototype a solution for your community. How will you use tech for social good to build a project for this year's theme?

Deadline: February 12, 2025

Apply/More info here: <https://girlswhocode.com/programs/gwc-challenges>

Dream Garden: New AI-Powered Immersive Exhibit at The Tech Interactive

Who: All

What: Dream Garden is a first-of-its-kind, AI-powered immersive exhibit that transforms your ideas and movements into a vibrant, surreal ecosystem. Designed to spark curiosity and inspire wonder, this playful experience invites visitors of all ages and abilities to step into a dream-like world and explore the creative possibilities of AI. After immersing yourself in the beauty of the exhibit, peek behind the curtain to discover the innovative technology that brings it to life. Whether you're an AI enthusiast or new to the concept, Dream Garden offers a fun and inclusive way to better understand this ever-changing technology.

Where: San Jose, CA

When: Grand Opening Saturday 15, from 10:00 AM - 05:00 PM (Exhibit will still be

open anytime after February 15th)

Apply/More info here:

<https://www.thetech.org/about-us/press-office/press-releases/press-releases/press-release-1-23-25/>

Tech Talk: Dragonfly

Who: All

What: NASA's 4th New Frontiers Mission is the Titan Dragonfly relocatable lander. This coaxial quadrotor vehicle will be launched on a rocket to Titan in 2028. Following a gravity assisted Earth flyby and an approximate 6-year transit, Dragonfly will enter the Titan atmosphere around 2034 with the goal of exploring Titan's pre-biotic chemistry and habitability. The multirotor design for this unique application has continually evolved since 2016 with constraints such as Titan's cryogenic atmosphere at 95 Kelvin (-288 F), gravity 14% that of Earth's, atmospheric density 440% of standard sea-level air, and the inability to test the entire system together under all these conditions until the first flight on Titan. This talk will discuss some of the unique challenges for rotary wing operation on Titan and highlight some contributions of the NASA Ames Aeromechanics Office to Dragonfly.

Where: Mountain view

When: Tuesday 25, from 6 - 7:30 PM

Apply/More info here: <https://aiaa-sf.org/event/tech-talk-dragonfly/>

The Lawrence Hall of Science Weekend Teen Research Programs

Who: Everyone

What: Learn about the wide range of STEM professions through Berkeley Lab staff and Bay Area professionals

Where: Virtual

When: Ongoing

Apply/More info here: <https://k12education.lbl.gov/programs/virtual/career-talks>

Watch the STEM Career Talks replay by Berkeley Lab

Who: Everyone

What: Learn about the wide range of STEM professions through Berkeley Lab staff and Bay Area professionals

Where: Virtual

When: Ongoing

Apply/More info here: <https://k12education.lbl.gov/programs/virtual/career-talks>

NASA Psyche Mission Innovation Toolkit

Who: High school and beyond

What: A free online course series based on the real-world science, engineering, technology, and teamwork behind the Psyche mission.

Where: Virtual

When: Ongoing

Apply/More info here: <https://psyche.asu.edu/get-involved/innovation-toolkit/>

STEM INTERNSHIPS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CAREERS IN SCIENCE (CiS) INTERN PROGRAM

Who: Grades 9-12 (must apply in grade 9 or 10)

What: Careers in Science is a multi-year, year-round paid internship and youth development program for San Francisco youth who come from communities typically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

Where: California Academy of Sciences

When: Afterschool and weekends (Multi-year, year-round participation)

Apply/More info here:

<https://www.calacademy.org/careers-in-science-cis-intern-program>

STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are now open for the annual Cards Against Humanity [Science Ambassador Scholarship](#). This year, we're offering five \$20,000 undergraduate tuition scholarships to women and non-binary students in science, technology, engineering or math. Applications close December 16, 2024.

HSF Scholar Program

DEADLINE: February 15 (2:00 PM PT)

What is it? ->

- Empowers families and students with the resources and knowledge to complete a higher education.
- HSF selects 10,000 applicants and gives them access to a wide range of services like mentorship, leadership development, knowledge building, wellness

services, career services, AND access to select internships and job opportunities.

- Depending on funds HSF Scholars might be eligible for a scholarship ranging from 500\$-5,000\$

Am I eligible? ->

- Must have Hispanic heritage
- U.S citizen, legal resident, or DACA
- Minimum 3.0 GPA for highschoolers and 2.5 for college or graduate students.
- Plan to enroll full-time in a non-profit, 4-year university, or graduate school in the U.S for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- If applicable submit the state based financial aid forms.

More info ->

Visit : [HSF.net](https://www.hsf.net) to get started on your application

STEM GAMES



This month's topic: Mechanical circuits

Creator: Upper story

Title: Spintronics

Description: Spintronics is a new game (ages 8 to adult) from the makers of Turing Tumble where players build mechanical circuits to solve puzzles. Players feel the pull of voltage and see the flow of current as they discover electronics in a tangible and deeply intuitive way, using the first physical equivalent of electronics ever built. It's fun, fascinating, easy-to-learn, and irresistible to play.

Link: <https://store.upperstory.com/collections/spintronics/products/spintronics-act-one>

IF YOU MISSED TTAG EVENTS...

If you missed the COLLEGE PREP for 10th Graders, or are interested in past COLLEGE PREP or FINANCIAL AID workshops, please contact us for the presentation, the recordings or both at: rpcvalle.aauw@gmail.com

CONTACT US

It's our goal to bring you workshops, camps, extra-curricular activities, internships, and other exciting opportunities in STEM. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to share with your TTAG community any cool STEM Ed event taking place at your high school. Want to share info and opportunities or give us feedback?

Please contact us at:

✉ - elizabethgraceoshea@gmail.com (Elizabeth O'Shea)

✉ - sidneyhuang.18@gmail.com (Sidney Huang)