

May 20, 2018

STEM Chair Report

Lina Germann

AAUW of Santa Fe supported two STEM events in Santa Fe financially and with volunteers:

1- Fall 2017 STEM Santa Fe Expanding Your Horizons Conference – October 20, 2017
The conference was attended by 165 fifth through eighth grade girls, and featured 16 workshops, a STEM and college careers fair, and a keynote address by Jessica Perea Houston, associate professor in the Chemical and Materials Engineering department at New Mexico State University. A complete summary report and slide show can be found on www.stemsantafe.org

2- 2018 STEM Santa Fe Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival – February 23, 2018
The festival was attended by 170 students who rated it as successful. A complete summary report and video can be found on www.stemsantafe.org

In addition, one of the main roles of our branch's STEM Chair is to coordinate the local effort of New Mexico Tech Trek.

In January we advertised widely in the SFPS district through many channels that the nomination period is open. Six schools from Santa Fe sent nominations of girls to NM Tech Trek, a total of 24 nominations. The schools are: Academy for Tech and Classics (ATC), Milagro Middle School (DeVargas MS and Capshaw MS merger), Monte Del Sol Charter School, Santa Fe Girls School, Tierra Encantada Charter School, Gonzales Community School.

We held an orientation meeting for these nominated girls and their parents on Saturday Feb. 17 from 12-1:30 at HEC with pizza lunch, salad and drinks. Jeanne Patrick and I gave them an overview of Tech Trek and showed two videos from past NM Tech Trek camps. Twelve girls and their families (about 30 people total) showed up and we answered all their questions.

Eventually 15 girls out of 24 nominated from Santa Fe applied to NM Tech Trek and we arranged to interview them along with their parents/guardians. All interviews of the 15 girls and their parents/guardians were done between March 17 and March 29, all but one at HEC. The branch also provided essay readers to NM Tech Trek committee.

Three of the girls had parents who didn't speak much English. With two of our members' help, Rita Caccamise and Cynthia Dobson, we were able to not only interview the parents in Spanish but also translate the parent interview questions to Spanish which we provided to NM Tech Trek Director for future use by the State AAUW.

NM Tech Trek committee informed us that 7 girls out of the 15 girls from Santa Fe that applied and were interviewed got accepted into the summer camp.

For next year I want to plan some gatherings for those Santa Fe girls who were nominated, applied and/or have been admitted to Tech Trek over the years. It would require some funding at least to have some food at these gatherings.

Note: I applied for an AAUW Community Action Grant from National through STEM Santa Fe to run an engineering program for girls but it was not granted.