



Other STEM / STEAM Opportunities to Explore

There are many other ways to keep exploring STEM fields like science, technology, engineering, art, and math. This list includes local and online possibilities that may be a good fit for middle school aged girls.

Helpful note for families: Programs change from year to year. Some options below are based on 2025 summer offerings and are included because they are strong possibilities to watch again in 2026.

This list has been prepared for your information only and none of these camps have official AAUW or Tech Trek endorsement.

QUICK SUGGESTIONS:

Start with the free or lower-cost options first. Ventura College, CSUCI Aventura Math Camp (for eligible families), library STEAM events, and Girls Who Code are especially strong.

Use online choices as an immediate next step. Girls Who Code, Code.org, Khan Academy, and Create & Learn can help a girl keep her momentum going right away.

Check dates early. Some programs fill quickly or post their summer schedules in spring.

Best lower-cost or free local options:

CSU Channel Islands - Aventura Math Camp

Location/format: Camarillo - in person

Typical age/grade: 7th and 8th grade students from agricultural worker families

Cost: Free, with bus transportation from central pick-up points

Why it may fit: Excellent value if a family qualifies. Supportive, confidence-building, and hands-on.

Website: <https://www.csuci.edu/aventuramath/>

Ventura County Library - Innovation Lab / STEAM activities

Location/format: Multiple library branches

Typical age/grade: Often includes middle school / teen age groups

Cost: Usually free

Why it may fit: A good low-pressure option for girls who want to keep doing creative STEM or STEAM activities close to home.

Website: https://www.library.venturacounty.gov/events/list?page=9&program;_types%5B14%5D=14

Southeast Ventura County YMCA - STEM Club

Location/format: Simi Valley / Westlake area

Typical age/grade: Middle schoolers, grades 6-8

Cost: Fee depends on the cost of the kit

Why it may fit: A nearby option that may be more affordable than a full summer camp and still offers structured STEM projects.

Website: <https://www.sevymca.org/stem-club>

Nearby paid camps worth watching

Club SciKidz - Thousand Oaks STEM camps

Location/format: Thousand Oaks area

Typical age/grade: Generally PK-8, depending on camp theme

Cost: Moderate to higher; themed weekly camps

Why it may fit: Strong STEM identity with themed camps such as coding, chemistry, medicine, engineering, and paleontology.

Website: <https://losangeles.clubscikidz.com/service-areas/stem-summer-camps-thousand-oaks/>

Cal Lutheran - Camp CLUE

Location/format: Thousand Oaks - in person

Typical age/grade: K-8

Cost: Higher cost than public or nonprofit options

Why it may fit: Not purely STEM, but includes discovery, creativity, and hands-on learning in a very convenient local setting.

Website: <https://www.callutheran.edu/summer-programs/clue/>

Girls-centered or confidence-building sources

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast - Camp Arnaz

Location/format: Ventura / Ojai area

Typical age/grade: Varies by program

Cost: Varies

Why it may fit: Worth watching for girls-only programs, day camps, and occasional STEM-related activities in a supportive environment.

Website: <https://www.girlscoutscoc.org/camparnaz>

Free online options families can use anytime

Girls Who Code

Location/format: Online

Typical age/grade: Programs include grades 3-12; some are for older students

Cost: Free

Why it may fit: One of the best no-cost ways for girls to explore coding in a friendly, confidence-building environment.

Website: <https://girlswhocode.com/programs>

Create & Learn - free coding classes

Location/format: Online live classes

Typical age/grade: Varies by class; many fit upper elementary and middle school

Cost: Free intro classes available

Why it may fit: Useful for girls who want to try coding without a long commitment first.

Website: <https://www.create-learn.us/coding-for-kids/free-classes>

Code.org - middle school computer science

Location/format: Online

Typical age/grade: Ages 11+ / middle and high school

Cost: Free

Why it may fit: Excellent self-paced activities for computer science, AI, and creative projects.

Website: <https://code.org/en-US/students/middle-and-high-school>

Khan Academy - computing

Location/format: Online

Typical age/grade: Flexible

Cost: Free

Why it may fit: A solid free resource for girls who want to explore programming and computing at their own pace.

Website: <https://www.khanacademy.org/computing>

Encouraging message for girls: Tech Trek is only one wonderful opportunity. There are many ways to discover what you love in STEM or STEAM. The important thing is to stay curious, keep trying new things, and remember that your interest and potential are still there.