Arizona Project WET (APW) has been promoting water stewardship and STEM literacy using the Arizona Water Festival (AWF) program since the year 2000, reaching an average of 5,000 students and 160 teachers each year. Today, the program has deepened the understanding of water in the earth system and Arizona’s water resources for over 63,200 students and 2,300 teachers in 24 communities across the state. Sponsorship proceeds for this community-driven event have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in volunteer hours, equipment donations, and cash support to local education, while simultaneously improving the visibility of AWF Sponsors as pillars of community progress. Arizona Project WET recognizes that developing STEM literacy begins with engaging teachers in 21st century teaching practices and connecting real-world professionals with elementary school students. That’s why the Arizona Water Festival spans an entire unit beginning with a professional development workshop that helps teachers implement pre- and post-festival lessons to prepare students for the water festival and deepen their learning. Please support this effort to offer Arizona’s 4th grade students this opportunity to engage in relevant learning!

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Arizona Water Festivals instill a deeper understanding of water in the earth system and Arizona’s water resources through a day of student exploration at a community festival, teacher professional development on a standards-based unit, volunteer involvement, and an opportunity for sponsors and collaborators to invest in effective education.