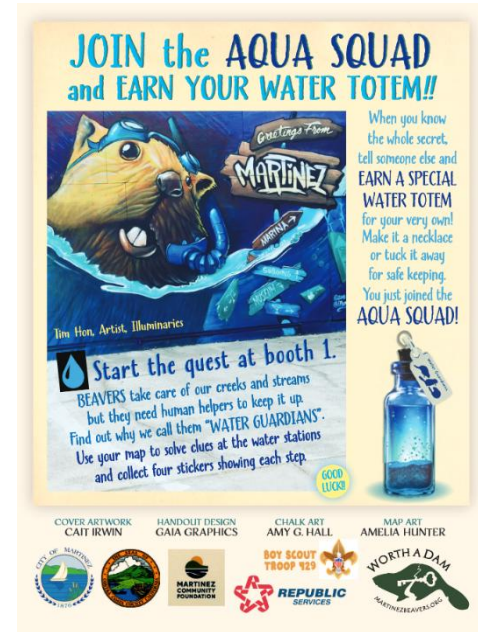


SUMMARY OF 2026 AQUA SQUAD GRANT

The 2026 beaver festival was a busy, dynamic powerhouse of a day with more than one thousand visitors and forty booths. New Exhibits included the California Wolf Foundation, Bay Quest and the San Francisco Maritime Museum. Attendees including local families who look forward to the event every year and those who drove over from the East Bay, San Mateo or Pittsburg and Marin. There were even a few visitors from out of state – a teacher from Tennessee and a beaver nonprofit in Oregon – who wanted to get ideas for educating about beavers in their own communities.

The “Aqua Squad” theme was popular among adults and children and kids were eager to start their quest. - many holding the map in front of them to trace their steps directly. The clue signs were helpful in nudging children into understanding the four terms. All participants earned the stickers and came back for their totems. In the end sixty-five children joined the “Aqua Squad” by completing the activity this year. More than one child remembered that there was a quiz at the end and asked in advance to take it. In all there were sixty post-tests taken with two thirds of the responders answering everything correctly. Children seemed to grasp the idea that better water helped people, vegetables and animals. When mistakes were made it was usually because they did not understand that it also helped the *rain*. It was especially meaningful to watch the most attentive parents help their children reason out the answers to the test: “*Does better water help birds?*” And to hear several children at the end exclaim proudly “*Better water from beavers help EVERYTHING!*”! Afterwards most children made their totems into necklaces and could be seen proudly wearing them out of the park.



Meanwhile the chalk artist worked in the center of the festival carefully leaving the last beaver for the most crowded afternoon hours. Children and adults watched and asked questions. For this event there was at least one display of living wildlife in every row, with the fish tank, bats, birds, bees and snakes all visible in the park. The day had a magical, friendly feeling as if the best aspects of people were gathered together in one spot to create a giant community of nature and an appreciation of urban wildlife.

The grant from the Fish and Wildlife Committee made these things possible and we are grateful for your support as we educate tomorrows leaders about the importance of beavers.

Heidi Perryman, Ph.D.
President & Founder
Worth A Dam
A Project of Inquiring Systems Inc.

Beavers dams improve water.
What does better water help?



NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

