

3Mgives Names Austin Youth River Watch Beneficiary of 2020 3M Half Marathon
Grant continues 3Mgives' support of local organizations focused on STEM

AUSTIN, TX, June 18, 2019 -- In support of 3M's global initiative to advance equitable science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), and educational outcomes for students, 3Mgives selects Austin Youth River Watch (AYRW) as the beneficiary of the 2020 [3M Half Marathon presented by Under Armour](#). This grant will allow the Austin-based nonprofit to continue offering a hands-on approach to environmental science, primarily to underserved high school students. [3Mgives](#) continues their support of local organizations that educate youth and prepare them for a possible career in STEM. The 26th annual 3M Half Marathon will take place on Sunday, January 19, 2020, in Austin, Texas.

"Over the 26-year history of the 3M Half Marathon, 3Mgives is so proud to have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to local Austin nonprofits in order to advance STEM education," said Stacey Claessens, 3Mgives Community Relations Manager of Austin. "We are pleased to again name Austin Youth River Watch as our race beneficiary so that they can continue to grow their program of providing peer mentoring and environmental education to underserved high school students."

[Austin Youth River Watch](#) is a multi-year, after-school and summer program for high school students, combining peer mentoring with intensive environmental education. Their students collect, analyze, and publish water-quality data from Austin-area streams and rivers and report their data to local and statewide agencies. Students also work with community partners on environmental restoration projects to improve watershed health. This grant will support AYRW's program in environmental education and youth development and their efforts to bring STEM to life. In addition to the grant, students and staff will have a booth at the expo and support an aid station on race day. This is the second year in a row that Austin Youth River Watch is the beneficiary of the 3M Half Marathon.

"We are exceedingly grateful to 3Mgives for naming us as the beneficiary of the 3M Half Marathon for the second year in a row," said Melinda Chow, Executive Director of Austin Youth River Watch. "Community partners like 3Mgives provide vital support for our programs engaging underserved youth in STEM service-learning activities to improve our environment and enhance collaborative skills. Furthermore, the River Watchers are inspired by being part of such an exciting event that brings Austinites and people from all over the world together in their hometown!"

The 3M Half Marathon boasts one of the fastest 13.1-mile courses in the country and will celebrate its 26th year running in 2020. Runners will enjoy a point-to-point course with mostly downhill running that showcases some of Austin's finest locations. Starting in north Austin and finishing near the Texas State Capitol, runners will appreciate a 306' net elevation drop. Participants can [register on the website](#).

About High Five Events: Beginning with the launch of a single triathlon in 2003, High Five Events has grown to become one of the largest privately owned event production companies in the United States. In addition to the events it owns and produces, the Austin, Texas-based company offers consulting and event production services to dozens of additional events each year. High Five Events is community-centric and has more than 100 years' combined experience organizing large events across different venue types in a variety of locations. Follow High Five Events on Twitter ([@highfiveevents](#)), Instagram ([@highfiveevents](#)), and Facebook ([facebook.com/HighFiveEventsWorldWide/](#)) for news and updates.