



Environmental
Learning for Kids



2016 Annual Report





“ ELK has given me opportunities to engage with the community and experience more of nature. ”

- ELK YOUTH

Greetings ELK Friend,

I'm privileged to lead an organization that annually reaches over 5,000 underserved, urban youth, our future leaders, through in-school/after-school and year-round intensive science and outdoor programs. As we mark 21 years of successfully reaching diverse communities and inspiring young people to shoot for the stars; I'm proud to provide you with your copy of Environmental Learning for Kids' 2016 Annual Report. This report details ELK's accomplishments, innovative programs, and our updated financial information for the 2016 year. I am confident that you will enjoy this brief peek into the exciting ELK journey that our students travel; igniting a passion for science and the outdoors, and exploring careers in Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe Counties.

ELK's unyielding support of Colorado youth with strategic science-based education opportunities, outdoor exploration, and mentor relationships produces demonstrable results.

In 2016, ELK:

- Reached 3,617 youth and families through year-round and community education programs, and 1,615 youth through school-based educational programming
- Helped ELK students receive \$77,713 in scholarship funding
- Assisted in ELK youth achieving a 100% high school graduation rate

It's no secret that if young people are given the opportunity to have a meaningful experience in the outdoors, they are more likely to value their community and environment. We've broken ground in the Montbello neighborhood to turn a vacant lot into an open space park and build an education center that ELK can call home. This project will provide more opportunities for youth engagement to affect positive change in their community and to explore nature in their own backyard. This community campaign is a tremendous opportunity for all of us to give back while reaching forward and we still need your help to realize our goal.

In gratitude of your partnership with ELK, I'd also love to invite you to join us for our 8th Annual ELK 'n Eggs event held on October 13th. This event boasts 350+ attendees, many business and community leaders, and provides a wonderful opportunity for networking, good food, and fun. Or if you would like to meet personally to learn more about ELK programming and our community campaign #BuildELKsHome, please do not hesitate to contact me at lpineda@elkkids.org or directly at 303-257-2501.

For our youth,

Loretta Pineda, Executive Director



ELK

Mission & Vision

MISSION

Environmental Learning for Kids cultivates a passion for science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners.



VISION

ELK envisions a world in which all people are caretakers of themselves, each other and the natural world.



YOUTH

Demographics

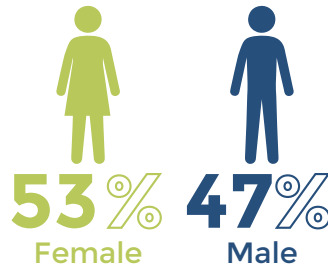
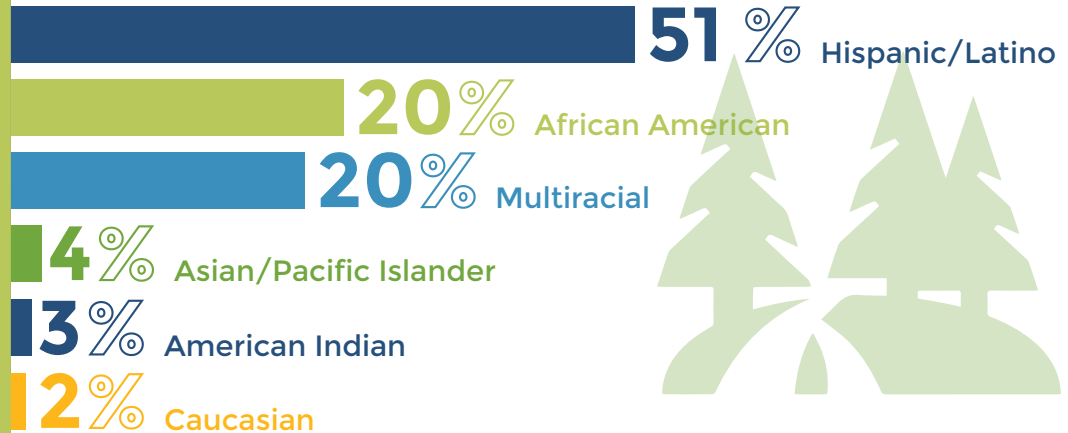


“ ELK has educated me by helping me learn about my surroundings and science. I have learned a lot about wildlife and how to protect nature. ”

- ELK YOUTH

AGES

5-25



Denver,
Adams
&
Arapahoe
Counties

78%
of ELK youth qualify
for free/reduced
price lunch



ELK

Impact 2016 Stats

164 ELK Programs

3,617 YOUTH & FAMILIES SERVED

435 through year-round programs & **3,182** through community education programs /Science & STEM education, outdoor experiences & career exploration

148 School Programs

1,615 Youth + **7** Districts + **32** Schools

100% Graduates

100% high school graduation rate for ELK youth

100% College Enrollment

Helped youth obtain **\$77,713** in college scholarships

15 Youth Employed

Summer youth employment in partnership with the **National Park Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife & Denver Parks and Recreation**

65 Dosage Hours

ELK youth received an average of **65 Hours** of ELK programs/activities

\$0 To Participate

100% of ELK youth participated at **no cost!**

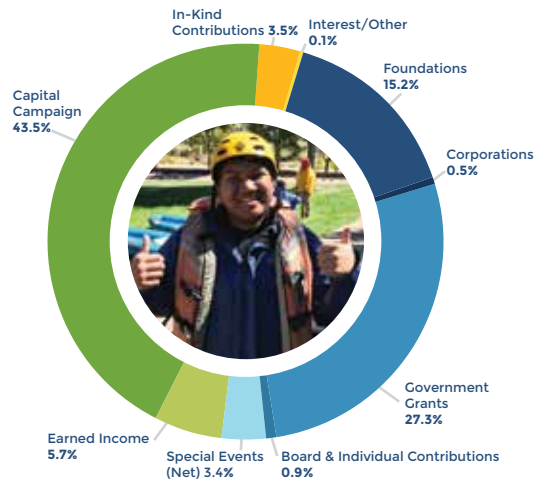


2016 Financial Activity



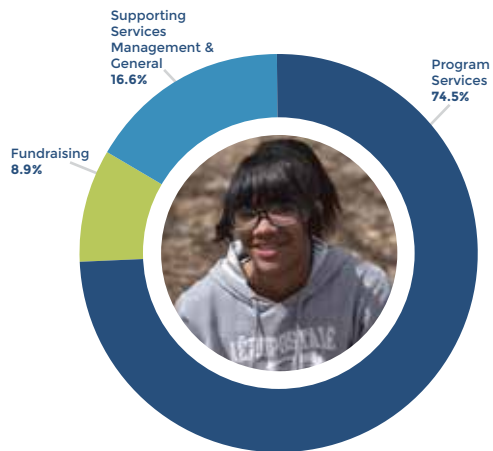
REVENUE

REVENUE	AMOUNT
Foundations	\$194,685
Corporations	\$6,101
Government Grants	\$350,838
Board & Individual Contributions	\$11,824
Special Events (Net)	\$43,442
Earned Income	\$73,067
Capital Campaign	\$557,803
In-Kind Contributions	\$44,435
Interest/Other	\$1,216
Total Revenue	\$1,283,411



EXPENSES

EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Program Services	\$568,703
Supporting Services	
Management & General	\$126,890
Fundraising	\$68,098
Total Expenses	\$763,691
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$519,720



ELK Programs



School-Based and Community Programs

Provides a wide selection of science and natural resources programs to community groups and public schools from grades P-12, correlated to Colorado State Academic Standards, in thirty-two (32) schools within seven (7) school districts.

Denver Youth Naturally | DYN

A year-round, multi-year program, immerses youth in hands-on science and exploration of natural resources. With mentoring by science professionals, DYN youth find the support necessary to succeed in school and life.

Youth in Natural Resources | YNR

Offers college mentoring, career exploration, and work experience in the field of science and natural resources, including college campus visits, leadership development, one-to-one scholarship and college entrance application support and summer employment.

Learning Environmental Activities for Families | LEAF

Involves families of DYN and YNR youth in their children's science learning, service projects, and outdoor experiences, encouraging quality family time side-by-side in nature.

URBAN Rangers

ELK's Urban Rangers employment program is a partnership between Environmental Learning for Kids, the National Park Service, Denver Parks and Recreation, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Urban Rangers gain valuable experience teaching science-based curriculum, conducting fishing clinics, assisting with the prep of educational programs, and receiving exposure to many areas of partnering organizations, in addition to enjoying full participation in ELK's summer programming. Urban Rangers are introduced to careers within the STEM field and have opportunities to network and gain professional development experience.

During the 2016 summer, the Urban Rangers taught fishing clinics to **1,001** youth and families and taught School-based Science and Natural Resource educational programs and camps to **400** youth from the Denver Metro area.

The Rangers received hands-on work experience and professional development at three State Parks: Cherry Creek, Chatfield and Barr Lake, where they spent **10** days working a total of **50** hours.

The Urban Rangers led educational outreach events for **2,831** youth and families, reaching a total of **4,232** youth and families.

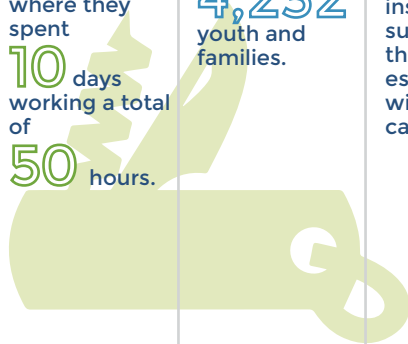
The Urban Rangers participated in a total of **91.5** hours of Professional Development, helping the Rangers gain the skills and insight to be successful in the workforce, especially within a STEM career.

The Urban Rangers participated in a total of **5** Farm Stands and spent a total of **20** hours selling organic produce and informing the Montbello Community all about healthy foods.

The Urban Rangers spent a total of **209** hours on camping trips. In 2016, the Rangers camped at: Grand Teton National Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park, Rocky Mt. National Park, and White River National Forest.

“ELK has been with me through thick and thin. It is a family I can trust with anything.”

- ELK YOUTH



2016 Contributors List

A list of our 2016 supporters who made it possible to transform the lives of our youth!

“The experiences that I have had I want everyone to have, they are essential to the human experience.”

- ELK YOUTH

**North American
Elk**
\$10,000+

Denver Active 20/30 Foundation
Freeport-McMoRan Foundation
National Recreation Foundation
Scientific & Cultural Facilities District
Colorado Commission on Higher Education
Argosy Foundation
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\$1,000-4,999



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For a full list of our 2016 supporters
and our 2016 ELK high school
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at www.ELKkids.org

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In memory of Tim Crisman

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In honor of Matt Kaspari

Allison Riffel
In memory of Baby Carina

Arturo Sandoval
In honor of Edwina Dardanes

Judy Weaver
In memory of Jim Metz



“ I absolutely love tree planting and Leadership Corps because you bond with everyone on another level. ”

- ELK YOUTH

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