



Mission: To cultivate a passion for science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners

Media Contacts:

Stacie Gilmore
Executive Director
303-881-8556 (cell)
sgilmore@elkkids.org

Jolynn Crownover
Development Director
303-565-0670 (cell)
jcrownover@elkkids.org

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ELK PARTNERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION CORPS

The 21CSC will accomplish critical restoration work while providing training opportunities and work experience to youth and veterans in Colorado.

Denver, CO , November 8, 2013-- The Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) announced today, that Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is one of 91 initial organizations nationwide that have been approved as member organizations to help implement the Obama Administration's 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC). The 21CSC is a national collaborative effort to put America's youth and veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's natural and cultural resources.

"ELK is honored to be one of the initial organizations nationwide for the 21CSC. This national collaborative effort will help us leverage support for our programs that educate and empower communities of color to become fully engaged in all issues related to the environment. Through youth development programs that provide science education, employment opportunities, career exploration, and leadership development; careers in science and natural resources have become a reality for our students." – Stacie Gilmore, Executive Director, Environmental Learning for Kids

The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps will partner with ELK's Youth in Natural Resources (YNR) program. YNR is a year-round, multi-year, youth development program dedicated to providing science education, employment opportunities, career exploration, and leadership programs to low-income, culturally diverse, and underserved youth ages 14-24, in the Denver metropolitan area.

The 21CSC engages young Americans aged 15-25, and veterans up to age 35. Through the 21CSC, young people and veterans will accomplish meaningful work, gaining important personal and professional skills while building a lifelong connection to the outdoors.

All 21CSC participants gain skills, and deliver results that include enhancing recreational opportunities and access, protecting wildlife, restoring impaired watersheds, removing invasive species, increasing

energy efficiency, preserving historic or cultural sites, enhancing community spaces, coordinating volunteers, supporting monitoring or data needs, responding to natural disasters, reducing hazardous fuels and protecting communities from wildfire.

Increasing diversity and expanding opportunities for all youth and veterans are core 21CSC principles: all 21CSC member organizations emphasize diversity and inclusion, and the 21CSC National Council will focus in the coming months on recruiting additional member organizations, targeting new programs in diverse areas, and investing in training and career pathways for a diverse group of participants.

The 21CSC is supported by the federal 21CSC National Council, which includes members from USDA, DOI, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, the Department of Labor, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Council on Environmental Quality, and by the Partnership for the 21CSC, which was launched in June of 2013 as a collaborative group to support the 21CSC.

For the Federal Register notice inviting letters of interest and outlining the eight principles, visit <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-01/html/2013-15644.htm>

For more information, visit the partner-hosted website www.21csc.org.

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About Environmental Learning for Kids

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), is a Denver-based, 501(c)3 organization established in 1996 by two wildlife biologists who saw a growing need to introduce and educate Colorado's urban youth about science, leadership, and careers. Both scientists had the shared experience of being the only ethnically diverse people in many of their college science classes and decided they wanted to change that fact by creating an environment for diverse youth to excel in science related fields by providing education and leadership training skills. Seventeen years later, ELK continues to provide strong educational support, good role models, and opportunities for positive community action for youth, helping them to become engaged, productive, and successful members of society. For more information about ELK please visit www.elkkids.org.