



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

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**Musician and Philanthropist Paul Simon Donates Substantial Gift to Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK)**

Denver, CO - The Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) organization is pleased to announce it has received a \$10,000 gift from singer-songwriter and philanthropist, Paul Simon.

These funds will support ELK's programs and activities that serve to provide under-resourced youth and their families with access to the outdoors, hands-on science education, and opportunities to explore careers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields.

In 2017, ELK conducted 190 programs - serving 4,866 youth and families - 522 through year-round programs and 4,344 through community education programs. ELK also provided 131 school programs, serving 1,542 youth in 6 districts and 28 schools. ELK programs are provided to Denver youth who need it most, at no cost to their families. Last year, 100 youth and families journeyed with ELK to Rocky Mt. National Park, Buena Vista, and the Grand Canyon.

ELK joins a plethora of other high-quality nonprofits and causes that have been supported by Paul Simon. Mr. Simon described his generous acts of giving in the following way: "As I'm embarking on my Farewell Tour and playing in these cities for what will be the last time, I felt strongly that I'd like to be able to, in a sense, say thank you to the people and communities who have supported me and my music for all these years. The conclusion I came to was that I could define one, or a couple, organizations

doing work on the ground in each place I visit on tour, and offer some financial gift that will hopefully have some lasting impact.”

ELK’s Executive Director, Loretta Pineda, had this to say about what this gift means to the ELK organization: “We are thrilled to partner our commitment to getting young people outdoors and exploring careers in the STEM fields with Mr. Simon’s dedication to health and the environment. Together, we truly can make a positive impact on our next generation of leaders and stewards.”

Special thanks to the Nature Conservancy of Colorado for its unwavering support of Environmental Learning for Kids, and for facilitating this generous and impactful gift.

Please go [here](#) for learn more about the ELK organization.

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#### Environmental Learning for Kids

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is a Denver-based, 501(c) 3 organization established in 1996 to address the growing need to introduce and educate Colorado’s urban youth about science, leadership, and careers. Twenty-two 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](http://www.elkkids.org).