



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

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White House Honors “Champion of Change” Stacie Gilmore for Engaging the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

DEVNER, CO – On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, the White House will honor Stacie Gilmore, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the local nonprofit organization, Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), and thirteen other heroes who are “Champions of Change” for their efforts to engage communities and youth in environmental stewardship and conservation. “Stacie has inspired thousands of Colorado youth from underserved communities to connect with, learn from and care for their outdoor heritage. A whole new generation of Coloradans are speaking up for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and parks and public lands across Colorado because Stacie inspired them,” said former Secretary of the Interior and U.S. Senator Ken Salazar. “Our Great Outdoors will endure because she and her team have ensured their stewardship.” Through innovative approaches, Gilmore and the other awardees are creating opportunities for the next generation of Americans to take part in outdoor recreation and physical activity.

The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities. Mayor Michal B. Hancock of the City and County of Denver stated that, “Stacie Gilmore is a true Champion of Change in her community of Denver. She is a visionary and an inspiring leader, who is working tirelessly to create 4.5 acres of open space and ELK education center in Montbello. Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) creates a passion in science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners.”

"I am humbled and appreciative to be selected as a Champion of Change for Engaging the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders. In 1996, I founded the non-profit Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) with the desire to educate Colorado's inner-city youth about the state's natural resources and to empower them to pursue a career in science, conservation, or natural resources. Through ELK, I work to inspire youth to have high expectations of themselves by exposing them to the outdoors and engaging them in service learning projects," said Stacie Gilmore.

"Stacie embraces one of Colorado's greatest assets – our beautiful outdoors – to inspire young people to learn and care for the environment. Under Stacie's leadership, Environmental Learning for Kids has helped thousands of kids in Denver experience the outdoors as well as learn more about our environment and how to live healthier lives," said Senator Bennet. "Stacie is a perfect example for Colorado's youth, and her work serves as a model for the rest of the country."

"I strongly believe that we don't inherit the land and water from our parents – we borrow it from our children. That's why I have worked as chairman of the U.S. Senate National Parks Subcommittee and a lifelong outdoorsman to connect youth with Colorado's spectacular public lands," **U.S. Senator Mark Udall said.** "Stacie and Environmental Learning for Kids share this vision, and I am proud to congratulate Stacie on receiving this honor. Her work with ELK over the past two decades has helped Colorado's underserved youth, changed countless lives, and inspired future generations of outdoorsmen and conservations."

The event is closed to press but will be live streamed on the White House website. To watch this event live, visit www.whitehouse.gov/live at 9:00 am EST on March 18. To learn more about the White House Champions of Change program, visit www.whitehouse.gov/champions.

You can also follow Stacie's experience in DC through ELK's blog, Facebook or Twitter.
<http://elkkidsnews.wordpress.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentalLearningforKids>
<https://twitter.com/ELKkids>

Stacie Gilmore
Denver, CO

Stacie Gilmore co-founded Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) in 1996 to provide pathways to science and natural resource careers for urban youth, youth of color, and other young people with limited access to these opportunities. Under Stacie's direction as the Executive Director for the last 18 years, ELK has transformed the lives of thousands of youth through science education, stewardship projects and outdoor

experiences. Her lifelong dedication to educate youth through science and conservation experiences is embedded in all programs and activities, which further students' understanding and attitudes toward science, the outdoors, their communities, college, and careers. Stacie works to transform youth by empowering them with increased academic skills, civic and community leadership, environmental stewardship, and employment opportunities.

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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, Stacie and Scott Gilmore, who saw a growing need to introduce and educate Colorado's urban youth about science, leadership, and careers. Eighteen 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.