2019 ANNUAL REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING FOR KIDS
A MESSAGE
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am so honored to share Environmental Learning for Kids’ (ELK) 2019 Annual Report with you. Today our work has never been more important. In 2019, the ELK Board of Directors and ELK staff completed a 3-year strategic plan that builds on our strengths and resilience in providing science education and outdoor experiences to under-resourced youth in the far northeast Denver metro area.

Our dedication to family, culturally relevant activities, and sense of place allows us to continue to be champions for the community. Working together with The Trust for Public Land and Denver Parks and Recreation, we are transforming a once neglected property into a natural open space and outdoor learning laboratory. In 2019, Denver Parks and Recreation committed to matching funds raised by ELK on a dollar for dollar basis up to $1.5 million. The City’s funds will be available January 1, 2021. ELK has raised $1.4 million dollars thus far and is in the process of raising the remaining amount needed to meet the match.

Together, we can ensure that youth in our community receive the high-quality science and natural resource education they need to succeed.

Thank you to our ELK family, partners, donors, and staff for being part of our work. It is because of your dedication, support, and insight that we continue to grow and create inspiring futures for our young leaders.

For our youth,

Loretta Pineda | Executive Director
“THEIR SINGLE GREATEST STRENGTH IS BUILDING A FAMILY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. ALL THE ACTIVITIES GIVE US A SENSE OF BELONGING.”
— ELK PARENT

**2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- **171** science-based activities completed through year-round programs, including six overnight trips for a total of **7,282** youth & families served.
- **123** in-school/after-school science-based programs provided to a total of **1,831** students within 30 schools and four districts.
- Helped students secure **$38,570** in college scholarships for a total of over one million dollars since ELK’s inception.
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.
“I HAVE LEARNED THAT I LOVE GOING OUTSIDE WITH FRIENDS AND I LOVE GOING TO SEE NEW PLACES.”
– ELK YOUTH
“ELK means everything to me. They have changed my life drastically and have helped me find my passion. I like how ELK allows me to share my passion with others and gives us these opportunities.”

– ELK Youth
2019 Financial Activity

Revenue

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<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$441,231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$55,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$130,129</td>
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<td>Board &amp; Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$49,797</td>
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<td>Special Events (Net)</td>
<td>$80,082</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>$125,398</td>
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<td>Capital Campaign</td>
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<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>$18,717</td>
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<td>Interest/Other</td>
<td>$6,514</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,309,879</strong></td>
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Expenses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>$192,177</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$106,816</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>$829,482</strong></td>
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Change in Net Assets $480,397

“My family loves the program and are so grateful for it. Thanks to all who make it possible!”

— ELK Parent
ELK PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

SCHOOL-BASED AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, provide a wide selection of science and natural resources programs to community groups and public schools, correlated to Colorado State Academic Standards, in thirty (30) schools within four (4) 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.
During the summer of 2019, through a partnership between Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), National Park Service (NPS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR), the Urban Ranger program outreached to and provided educational, professional development, and employment opportunities to underserved and underrepresented youth from the Denver metropolitan area. In its 7th year, the Urban Ranger program provided summer employment opportunities to twelve (12) urban youth and educational experiences to over 5,452 community youth and family members. The Urban Ranger season is primarily summer, June-August, however additional programs and work opportunities were available just prior and after the summer months.

The Urban Rangers played an important role in helping ELK, NPS, CPW, and DPR to fulfill their missions to reach out to and inform urban communities about what each organization has to offer. Through trainings administered by NPS Rangers, CPW Rangers, ELK staff, and DPR staff, the Urban Rangers were able to work as educational facilitators and ambassadors on behalf of all agencies throughout their urban communities.

Although Colorado has 13 National Park units and 41 State Parks, very few urban youth have experienced what these parks have to offer. The Urban Ranger program is aiming to change that. Last year alone, the Urban Rangers provided fishing clinics to 944 youth from the Denver Metro area.

“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE PERSONAL TOUCH CUSTOMER CARE YOU GIVE UNTO ALL THE FAMILIES. IT MEANS SO MUCH IN A WORLD FULL OF UNCERTAINTY. YOU TRULY KNOW OUR NAMES.”

– ELK PARENT
2019 HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Urban Rangers taught 20 fishing clinics to 944 youth;
- The Urban Rangers taught School-based Science and Natural Resource educational programs and camps to 500 youth from the Denver Metro area;
- The Urban Rangers led additional educational programs and outreach events to 4,008 youth and families;
- The Urban Rangers reached a total of 5,452 youth and families;
- The Urban Rangers participated in a total of 128 hours of Professional Development, helping the Urban Rangers gain the skills and insights to be successful in the work field, especially in a natural resource career;
- The Urban Rangers received hands-on work experience and professional development at 4 State Parks: Cherry Creek, Barr Lake, Golden Gate Canyon and Staunton State Park;
- The Urban Rangers spent 13 days working a total of 111 hours at four Colorado State Parks; State Park days included a combination of professional development, fieldwork, and participating/leading educational activities;
- Professional Development opportunities provided by: National Park Service Regional Office, Rocky Mountain National Park Search and Research, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Denver Parks and Recreation, Leave No Trace, Lincoln Hills Cares, United States Forest Service and Hispanic Access Foundation
- The Urban Rangers spent a total of 99 hours on camping/overnight trips.
## 2019 CONTRIBUTORS LIST

**NORTH AMERICAN ELK**

$10,000+

- AJL Foundation
- The Anschutz Foundation
- Argosy Foundation
- Boettcher Foundation
- BOGS Footwear
- Denver Active 20/30 Children’s Foundation
- Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety
- Freeport McMoran
- Gates Family Foundation
- Kettering Family Philanthropies
- Ann and Henry Klaiman
- Mile High United Way
- Montbello Organizing Committee
- National Park Foundation
- National Park Service
- National Recreation Foundation
- Newmont Mining Corporation
- Opus Foundation
- The Outdoor Foundation
- PB and K Family Foundation
- Scientific & Cultural Facilities District
- Scott’s Roofing
- Suncor Energy U.S.A.
- The Denver Foundation
- U.S. Bank Foundation
- Verizon
- The VF Foundation
- Xcel Energy Foundation

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIG HORN SHEEP**

$5,000-$9,999

- The Denver Beer Company
- Karl Friedman Beer Company
- GoWild NEMC
- Ed McVaney
- Subaru of America Foundation

**COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE**

$1,000-$4,999

- Lise Aangeenbrug
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- David and Lornel Baker
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Andy Wykstra
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Gwenyth Aggeler
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John Litz
Travis Long & Katherine Barton
Lucy Loomis
Leslie Madsen

“BECAUSE OF THE ELK SPRING BREAK TRIP, I WILL CONTINUE TO CULTIVATE AN INTEREST IN THE OUTDOORS WITHIN YOUTH. I WILL APPLY TO MORE LEADERSHIP ROLES THAT ALLOW ME TO WORK WITH KIDS (SPECIFICALLY PEOPLE OF COLOR) BECAUSE THIS IS MY PASSION.”

– ELK YOUTH
2019 CONTRIBUTORS LIST (CONTINUED)

April Maestas
Sienna Magee
Nicole Marquez
Doris Marx Inslie
Mary K. McCormac
Timothy Michael McEntee
Eric McQueen
Michelle H. Meijer
Ray Merenstein & Ilana Steinberg on behalf of RDM Communications
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Lindsay Moery
Jenine Lanell Morales
Fiorella A Moscoso
Gloria Nedved
Brian Nelson
Kimberly Nichols
Kate Nichols-Smith
Bridget O’Shea
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Ann Cooper
In honor of Erik and Michelle Fuller
Alma Winterbotham
In memory of Ernie Dunlap
Odie Fraley
In honor of Taylor Ruffin
Ririko Voelker
In honor of Jacob Gilmore
Eric Godoy
In honor of Vera Raya Alvarado
Cathleen Hall
In honor of Marci Hladik
Cathleen Hall
In honor of Ben Gregory
Joe Mauro and Hukum Singh Khalsa
In honor of Jolynn Croweover
Jennifer B Long
In memory of Malcolm Stevenson
Lori Winterbotham
Pedersen
In memory of Ernie Dunlap
Betty E. Stevenson
In memory of Malcolm Stevenson
Laurie Troge
In honor of Cohen von Troge
Matthew Trone
In honor of Mark Trone
Wendi Van Lake
In honor Christina Hoffman
Alma Winterbotham
In honor Ernie Dunlap

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