

### Urban Rangers

Since 2013, National Park Service (NPS), Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR), and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) have partnered with us on our Urban Rangers program. The Urban Rangers are a crew of diverse ELK youth, ages 14-25 that are employed throughout the summer to facilitate science and environmental programs for thousands of youth. This program benefits all partners by expanding education about NPS, DPR, and CPW to diverse youth in Denver, while providing additional summer employment and leadership opportunities for ELK youth, and expanded educational programming in underserved neighborhoods.



### Dom's Story

"I have an amazing son that I am so very proud of. A son that has been through more than he should have. A son that deserves all the best in the world. Unfortunately, as a single mother, I am not always able to give him everything he deserves. Dom has always been such a sweet, kind, caring and respectful kid that has always made good decisions but lacked positive male role models in his life. Luckily a friend had told me about Environmental Learning for Kids which was perfect for Dom because they did all of the outdoors stuff he loved to do. I was unable to do these things with him because I was disabled at the time. ELK took him camping and fishing and taught him all kinds of cool and important things. But more than anything, they quickly became family to him - the big, happy, supportive family that he had always wanted. Not only did they become family to him but they became family to my other son and myself as well. I was - and am - so incredibly grateful for all of this and couldn't have asked for more."



### Yesica's Story

"I have been involved with ELK since 2014. I started as a student that attended Leadership Corps in order to get help with the college process and real-world preparation, and later became an Urban Ranger (ELK's youth employment program). I was always encouraged to continue higher education but it was intimidating not knowing where to start. The ELK staff from Leadership Corps supported me through the whole process from showing me different careers to giving me the resources needed to keep my family updated about the college process."



### Nicole's Story

"In high school, I was never out of my comfort zone; and was actually considered 'new' by other students for the entirety of my high school career. Around that time, I became involved with ELK, which helped me escape my comfort zone. While my parents always encouraged me, ELK showed me ways in which to truly reach my goals. I now hold my Associate's Degree and am currently working towards completing my Bachelor's Degree in Science. I'm also employed by the City and County of Denver as a Horticulturist and Maintenance Technician."

### Tomorrow's Leaders

ELK gets results thanks to support from people like you. Help us to create tomorrow's leaders by making your contribution today.

- Online at [www.elkkids.org](http://www.elkkids.org)
- Check payable to Environmental Learning for Kids

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

### Environmental Learning for Kids • ELK

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# ELK Environmental Learning for Kids



# Kids

[www.ELKKids.org](http://www.ELKKids.org)



## What?

ELK programs introduce, immerse, educate, and mentor youth from ages 5-25 to Colorado's natural resources and science-related careers. Most return year after year to join ELK's community of learners. ELK offers a mosaic of programs that serve as stepping-stones for youth - the future leaders and engaged community members of tomorrow.



## School-Based Programs

ELK offers a selection of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and natural resource programs to public and private schools in metro Denver, grades K - 12. All programs, whether they are one-hour long classroom-based or full-day outdoor programs, are correlated to Colorado state teaching standards and model effective teaching. An education plan is available with each program to help teachers integrate the learning with current topics.

### Benefits of ELK's School-Based Programs:

- Students are engaged in hands-on learning
- Students improve science comprehension
- Topics are integrated with classroom curriculum



## Youth in Natural Resources (YNR)

YNR is for youth ages 14-25 who are ready to explore career options and gain work experience in the natural resources and science fields. While DYN programs offer ongoing education and exploration of career possibilities, YNR takes it to the next level, preparing students for the next step after graduation. This program facilitates college campus visits, secures summer employment, provides 1:1 mentors in college, and assists in financial aid preparation.

### Benefits of ELK's YNR program:

- Aid in pursuing higher education and scholarships
- Rigors of college studies seen first hand
- Life skill development and work experience

## Learning Environmental Activities for Families (LEAF)

LEAF brings families into ELK's community of learning. By participating in LEAF activities, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and extended family learn about Colorado's natural resources and give back to the community through stewardship projects. Families take part in healthy outdoor activities and establish strong family bonds, while strengthening the support system for youth to succeed.

### Benefits of ELK's LEAF program:

- Multi-generational mentoring support system
- Families enjoy Colorado's natural world with their children
- Families learn about science and community stewardship



# Environmental Learning for Kids

## Why?

Under-resourced, culturally diverse youth in the Denver metro area do not have the same opportunities to succeed and thrive as other youth. The potential is tangible in urban neighborhoods; yet there are far more opportunities to skip school and join gangs than there are to become a contributing part of the community. ELK opens new doors of opportunity by engaging and mentoring youth through programs that provide a real-life context for learning. Youth experience Colorado's natural world, increase their academic science skills, become involved in their neighborhoods, and get exposure to careers in the fields of science and natural resources.



## Denver Youth Naturally (DYN)

DYN, ELK's core program for youth ages 5-18, is a year-long, multi-year learning experience. DYN ignites curiosity and inspires youth in their academic studies, leadership development, and career exploration. Students develop confidence and self esteem through hands-on field activities, local excursions, and overnight wilderness experiences. With long-term mentoring by biologists and other science professionals, DYN youth find the support they need to succeed in school. As a result, they find new doors of opportunity opening to them.



### Benefits of ELK's DYN program:

- New experiences and motivation to excel in school
- Increased interest in higher education and science careers
- Long-term connection to a learning community to develop life and leadership skills



# Kids

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