



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Environmental Learning for Kids Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ELK 'n Eggs Fundraiser  
Breakfast with Denver Business and Community Leaders**

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) team will be joined by over three hundred of Denver's most influential business and community leaders at the Denver Museum of Nature in Science, in celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ELK 'n Eggs breakfast fundraiser. With an ambitious goal of raising \$100,000 in program support, this continuously successful event annually celebrates recent successes and plans for the future, while also highlighting individuals and partners who have made an impact on bridging the gap between under-resourced youth and families our beautiful outdoors.

This year's Lifetime Legacy Award will be presented to Lise, Aangeenbrug, executive director of the Outdoor Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Outdoor Industry Association (OIA). Lise has a long history of supporting connections between young people and nature the former executive vice president for the National Park Foundation and the former executive director of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be receiving the Celebrated Partner Award for 2019, after close to two decades of highly influential partnership. Most recently, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has been instrumental in the growth of ELK's Urban Ranger youth internship program, providing significant opportunities for professional development and career planning for our next generation of leaders.

This event will also feature Guest Alumnus, Abenicio Rael and Youth Speaker, Ronika Kone. Abenicio is the Director for Latinx Student Services in the Center for Identity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado Denver. He has been a professional with the University of Colorado System for over 12 years. Ronika is a newly appointed Student Coordinator with the Environmental Learning for Kids organization, and 2019 Urban Ranger Lead.

Funds raised by this event will allow Environmental Learning for Kids the privilege to continue to reach out to students who have been traditionally overlooked and under-encouraged in science and science-related careers, including youth of color and females. ELK opens new doors of opportunity by engaging and mentoring youth through science education and leadership development 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 field of natural resources. They grow into stewards and engaged citizens, while cultivating strong educational values to ensure high school and college graduation.

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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 to address the growing need to introduce and educate Colorado's urban youth about science, leadership, and careers. Twenty-three 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).