



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

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**Environmental Learning for Kids Celebrates ELK ‘n Eggs Fundraiser Virtually
ELK Honors Happy Haynes, Executive Director of Denver Parks and Recreation
Link to join the event 10/9 from 7:30-9:00 am at – <https://bit.ly/3lqB82m>**

On October 9th 2020, the Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) team will celebrate its first ever “virtual” ELK n EGGs Breakfast. The annual event normally hosted at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science will include scenes from the museum, and other community open spaces and parks as part of the streaming production. This continuously successful event annually celebrates recent successes and plans, while also highlighting individuals and partners who have made an impact on bridging the gap between under-resourced youth and families in our beautiful outdoors.

Master of ceremonies for the event is Mike Johnston, the President and CEO of Gary Community Investments and former Colorado State Senator. Over the last two decades, Johnston has led and founded numerous non-profit and for-profit organizations and is continuing his work in the Colorado community, to improve the lives of Colorado’s children and families.

This year’s *Lifetime Legacy Award* will be presented to Denver Parks and Recreation Executive Director Happy Haynes who has been breaking down barriers for Colorado youth and families for over 30 years. Haynes has fostered city policies that focus on families, children, and educational reform. A tireless public servant, Happy has served on Denver City Council, Denver School Board and now runs the Denver Parks and Recreation.

Generation Wild Northeast Metro Coalition will be receiving the *Celebrated Partner Award for 2020*. The NEMC is a coalition of 13 conservation organizations, governments, and nonprofits, that provide outdoor experiential education and jobs in nature, and instill stewardship principles in the youth and families of four underserved neighborhoods in the Denver Metro area.

This event will also feature ELK Parent, Gina Morales whose sons have been in ELK for 8 years and Youth Speaker, Gloria Terraraz. Gloria is a multiple-year ELK Urban Ranger and current Metropolitan State University freshmen.

Funds raised by this event will allow ELK 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.

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