



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) Welcomes New Executive Director**

*Juan Pérez Sáez joins nonprofit during its 25th year of service, which serves more than 5,000 urban youth each year through programs in Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe Counties.*

**(Denver, CO) August 25, 2021:** Following an extensive search, [Environmental Learning for Kids](#) has welcomed Juan Pérez Sáez as its new executive director. With more than 14 years of experience in the field of environmental education and advocacy, Pérez Sáez is a seasoned nonprofit and government leader who has devoted his career to environmental stewardship, public policy, and equitable access to the outdoors.

In his role as executive director, Pérez Sáez is responsible for providing strategic direction, overall leadership and management to support ELK's mission of cultivating a passion in science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners. Pérez Sáez will oversee the financial management, program and administrative operations, as well as development efforts for the organization.

Pérez Sáez comes to ELK from the [Wilderness Society](#), where he served as the senior manager of strategic partnerships. Juan has also worked for several nonprofit organizations in Latin America and the United States, as well as the U.S. federal government, and was a Fulbright Scholar from 2012 to 2014. Before moving to Colorado, Juan was the National Coordinator for the Million Hectares Alliance in Panama in which he led a multimillion-dollar public-private partnership that sought to restore more than 2.4 million acres of degraded land in a 30-year period. He also led the first ever National Reforestation Day in his home country of Panama, an

event which mobilized more than 15,000 people during its first year and led to the revision and creation of a new National Forest Policy.

“We are thrilled to welcome Juan as ELK’s next leader and ambassador to the Montbello community, said Ryan Nichols, an attorney at [Holland & Hart](#) (Denver, CO) and the chair of the ELK board of directors. “Juan’s experience and background, along with his passion for creating opportunities for outdoor learning, make him superbly qualified and an exceptional fit for ELK. We are excited to kick off ELK’s next 25 years with Juan’s leadership and vision.”

Pérez Sáez joined ELK on August 9. “I believe that connecting to nature and building healthy communities go hand in hand,” said Pérez Sáez. “My introduction to the outdoors was thanks to an organization like ELK, so I am extremely honored and ready to work alongside the whole ELK community to continue inspiring, educating and transforming youth and their families through our programs just like my own life was shaped.”

ELK is seeking necessary funding, volunteers, and community partners to provide the best possible learning experience for its program participants. To make a donation, please visit ELK’s [website](#). To speak with Juan Pérez Sáez about his new executive role at ELK or to learn about other opportunities to support ELK, please contact Kristina Gray at [kopre@elkkids.org](mailto:kopre@elkkids.org).

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**About Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK):** Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is a Denver-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1996 to address the growing need to introduce and educate Colorado’s urban youth about science, leadership, and careers. Twenty-five 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. Learn more at [www.elkkids.org](http://www.elkkids.org).