A MESSAGE
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my great joy to present Environmental Learning for Kids’ 2021 annual report.

2021 hosted many challenges and accomplishments alike. As we tentatively returned to in-person programming, we kept the health and safety of our youth and families at the forefront of all of our programs and activities. We made the most of our adventures and supported our families through way of gear and instruction in exploring nature and the outdoors in their own special ways, strengthening family bonds, and building community.

In 2021, we also completed construction on our Montbello Open Space Park and started construction on our ELK Education Center, a milestone that has since been completed. We couldn’t have done it without the support of you, our uplifting community. I recently was asked what my favorite place in the building is and what I would like for people to know about this Center.

My answer is, the building alone, or empty, is useless. This first of its kind center becomes alive when it is full of people, when kids are running around, whether they are using the water fountain, laughing, or learning something new. When our program team is leading trainings, and when the community comes by and feels so comfortable that they don’t want to leave. The building is alive when we are here, and everyone feels the shared sense of belonging and joy.

This was a dream of 26+ years in the making, and we made it here thanks to you all.

To all our donors, thank you! To all of those who believed in this journey and decided to walk alongside us, thank you!

In unity,

Juan Pérez Sáez | Executive Director
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.
## YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS 2021

### AGES 5-25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Denver, Adams, and Arapahoe Counties

### IMPACT STATS 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>157 ELK PROGRAMS:</strong></td>
<td>5,976 youth &amp; families served - 3,203 through year-round programs and 2,773 through community education programs / environmental &amp; STEM education, outdoor experiences &amp; career exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>66 SCHOOL PROGRAMS:</strong></td>
<td>1,164 youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRADUATES:</strong></td>
<td>100% high school graduation rate for ELK seniors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College Enrollment:</strong></td>
<td>Helped youth obtain $65,296 in college scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13 YOUTH EMPLOYED:</strong></td>
<td>Summer youth employment via Urban Rangers &amp; partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$0 TO PARTICIPATE:</strong></td>
<td>100% of ELK youth participated at no cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I have so many people at ELK that I consider my mentors. That inspire me. Not just in school, but in life. I always look to them for advice if I need it.”

— ELK Youth

“ELK means inclusivity, equality, and determination. I have always felt like I am welcomed with open arms at ELK and have always been able to find a second home at ELK.”

— ELK Youth
2021 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$819,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$138,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$383,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$93,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events (Net)</td>
<td>$24,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>$67,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest/Other</td>
<td>$5,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$1,562,361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$596,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>$118,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$221,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$935,751</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS  $626,610

ELK PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

SCHOOL-BASED AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, provide a wide selection of science and natural resources programs to community groups and public schools from grades P-12, correlated to Colorado State Academic Standards, in sixteen (16)* 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.

*School district participation numbers affected by COVID-19 protocols.

“The sense of community has been amazing. My boys cling on to the mentors and leaders. The way ELK chooses their people is thoughtful.”
— ELK PARENT

“ELK means helping others and putting the community before yourself. It’s a safe place where you go to learn and thrive in.”
— ELK YOUTH
During 2021, through a partnership between Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), National Park Service (NPS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) the Urban Ranger program outreached out to and provided educational, professional development, and employment opportunities to underserved and underrepresented youth from the Denver metropolitan area. In its 9th year, the Urban Ranger program provided employment opportunities to eleven (11) youth and educational experiences for over 831 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 NPS, ELK, and CPW to fulfill their missions to reach out and inform communities about what all organizations have to offer, and the Urban Rangers crew was able to work as educational facilitators and ambassadors on behalf of all agencies throughout their urban communities.

2021 Urban Ranger Highlights:

**Taught**
- Fishing Clinics to 146 Youth & Taught 111 Youth from Various Summer Camps
- Educational Programs and Outreach Events for 375 Youth and Families
- Reached a Total of 831 Youth and Families

**Participated**
- In a Total of 174 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
- Received Hands-on Work Experience and Professional Development at 3 State Parks: Golden Gate Canyon State Park, Roxborough State Park and Eldorado Canyon State Park
- Worked 72 Hours at the Three Colorado State Parks; State Park Days Included a Combination of Professional Development, Fieldwork, and Participating/Leading Educational Activities
- Received Their Leave No Trace Certification

**Professional Development Opportunities Provided By:**

“MY FAVORITE THING I HAVE DONE WITH ELK IS CAMPING BECAUSE WE GO HIKING, FISHING, WE DO SERVICE PROJECTS, SWIMMING, AND WE ROAST MARSHMALLOWS. I GET TO SPEND TIME AWAY FROM EVERYTHING AND JOIN THE PEOPLE I LOVE ON A BIG, FUN TRIP.”

— ELK Youth
### 2021 CONTRIBUTORS LIST

#### NORTH AMERICAN ELK

$10,000+
- Amazon
- The Anschutz Foundation
- Arc Thrift Stores
- BAS Family Fund
- David L. Bucknam Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Denver Active 20/30
- Children's Foundation
evo
- Fidelity Charitable
- Freeport McMoRan
- Generation Wild NEMC
- Kettering Family Philanthropies
- Ann & Henry Klaiman
- Mile High United Way
- Montbello Organizing Committee
- National Recreation Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Patagonia
- Schwab Charitable
- Scientific & Cultural Facilities District
- Suncor Energy U.S.A.
- The Denver Foundation
- VF Outdoor LLC
- Weyco Group
- Xcel Energy

#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIG HORN SHEEP

$5,000-$9,999
- Bass Pro Shops & Cabela's Outdoor Fund
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado Housing & Finance Authority (CHFA)
- Community Shares Colorado
- The David C. Hawley Foundation
- Karl & Barbara Friedman
- Edward Jones
- Lucky to Ride
- Quality Community Foundation
- Schlessman Family Foundation
- Sierra Club
- Emily Thaxton
- Tulsa Community Foundation
- U.S. Bank Foundation

#### COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE

$1,000-$4,999
- Effley Nathaniel Brooks, Ill
- Maurice D Brooks, Sr.
- Kirsten Brown
- Jim Capecelatro
- Sara Carpenter
- Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
- Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
- Community First Foundation
- Conservation Colorado Education Fund
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- Impact Charitable - Rob and Sara Bayless Family Fund
- Impact Assets
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- Kensington
- Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
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- Craig Myles
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- Theresa Sorrells
- St. Thomas Steel, Inc.
- State Board of the Great Outdoors
- Steps to Success
- Laurie Troge
- Tamara Valdez
- Whole Foods
- The Wilderness Society

#### RED FOX

$500-$999
- American Star Cleaning
- Dr. Keith and Kelsey Connaghan
- Valerie Gates
- Jake Gilmore
- Andrew and Grace Goodman
- Naomi Gravelding
- Joshua Hanfling
- Joe Mauro and Hukum Singh Khalsa
- Johnson Charitable Gift Fund
- Kaspo Inc.
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- Jennifer McLaren
- Ryan Lane Nichols
- Laurel Palladino
- Samantha Palladino
- Monica Perez
- Ashley Picillo
- Heath & Kelly Port
- Anne Pogoriler
- Trihydro Corporation
- Turner Construction
- Iliana Urias
- Juan Urias
- Jeanne Usher
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$100-$499

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Timothy Nichols
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Paula Ogilvie
Melanie Palmer
Juan Pérez Sáez
Stephanie Phippen
Tegan Plock
PNC Foundation
Alfredo Ramirez
Eric Raymond
Lauren E Schmidt
Gary Sidders
Andrea Smith

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Shobana Gopal in memory of Roger Hake of Leigh NE
Ben Gregory and Marci Hladik in honor of Loretta Pineda
Nancy Walsh in honor of Loretta Pineda
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Board in honor of Laurie Troge

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