

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Environmental  
Learning for Kids



TM



## 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,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juan Pérez Sáez".

Juan Pérez Sáez | Executive Director



A woman with reddish hair is sitting on the ground in a forest, smiling. She is wearing a dark grey zip-up jacket and purple and black checkered pants. She is holding a sandwich in her right hand and making a peace sign with her left hand. A yellow tent is visible behind her. In the foreground, there is a campfire with bright orange and yellow flames. To her right, there is a silver thermos. The background consists of tall, thin trees in a forest setting.

# ELK MISSION AND VISION

## 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

**46%**  
HISPANIC/LATINO

**26%**  
AFRICAN AMERICAN

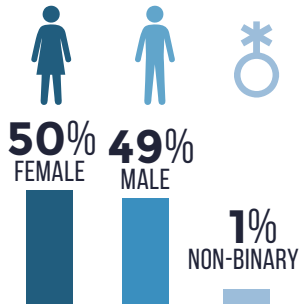
**20%**  
MULTIRACIAL

**4%**  
CAUCASIAN

**3%**  
NATIVE AMERICAN

**1%**  
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

## DENVER, ADAMS, AND ARAPAHOE COUNTIES



**85%**  
OF ELK YOUTH  
QUALIFY FOR  
FREE/REDUCED  
PRICE LUNCH

# IMPACT STATS 2021

**157 ELK PROGRAMS:**  
**5,976** YOUTH & FAMILIES SERVED - **3,203** THROUGH  
YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS AND **2,773** THROUGH COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS / ENVIRONMENTAL & STEM  
EDUCATION, OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES & CAREER EXPLORATION

**66 SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS:**  
**1,164** YOUTH  
**5** SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
**16** SCHOOLS

**GRADUATES:**  
**100%** HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
RATE FOR ELK SENIORS

**College Enrollment:**  
HELPED YOUTH OBTAIN **\$65,296** IN  
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

**13 YOUTH EMPLOYED:**  
SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT VIA  
URBAN RANGERS & PARTNERSHIPS

**\$0 TO PARTICIPATE:**  
**100%** OF ELK YOUTH  
PARTICIPATED AT NO COST

“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



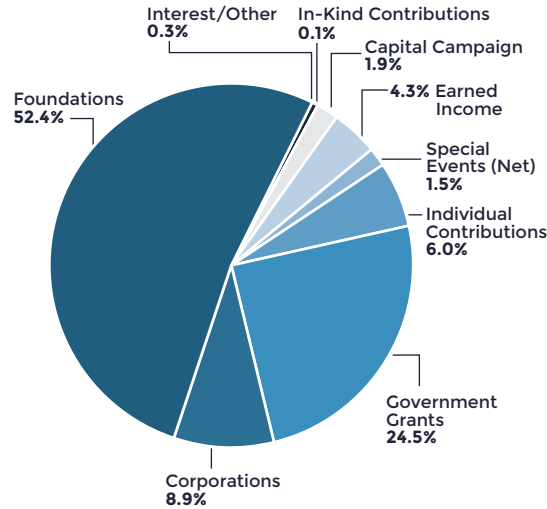
“ELK MEANS  
INCLUSIVITY, EQUALITY,  
AND DETERMINATION. I  
HAVE ALWAYS FELT LIKE  
I AM WELCOMED WITH  
OPEN ARMS AT ELK AND  
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN  
ABLE TO FIND A SECOND  
HOME AT ELK.”  
— ELK YOUTH



# 2021 FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

## REVENUE

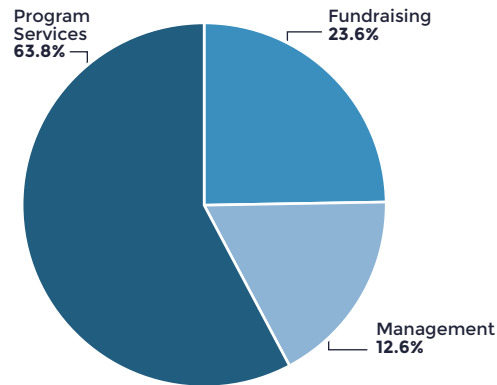
REVENUE	AMOUNT
Foundations	\$819,421
Corporations	\$138,300
Government Grants	\$383,135
Individual Contributions	\$93,857
Special Events (Net)	\$24,108
Earned Income	\$67,305
Capital Campaign	\$30,000
In-Kind Contributions	\$1,200
Interest/Other	\$5,035
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,562,361</b>



“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

## EXPENSES

EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Program Services	\$596,576
Management	\$118,120
Fundraising	\$221,055
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$935,751</b>



**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)\* schools within five (5)\* 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



# URBAN RANGERS 2021 IMPACT

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.

“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 URBAN RANGER HIGHLIGHTS:

**TAUGHT** FISHING CLINICS TO **146** YOUTH **&** **TAUGHT** **111** YOUTH FROM VARIOUS SUMMER CAMPS

**LED** 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:** COLORADO ALLIANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, PROJECT WILD, BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES, LEAVE NO TRACE, DENVER WATER, STATE LAND BOARD, COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE, DENVER ZOO, DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION AND COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

## 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  
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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  
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2021 SUPPORTERS PLEASE  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.ELKKIDS.ORG](http://WWW.ELKKIDS.ORG)

### HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

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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