



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Environmental  
Learning for Kids



TM



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As the Executive Director of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), I am pleased to present our annual report for 2022. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I reflect upon the incredible accomplishments we have achieved in promoting outdoor experiences, STEM education, and career exploration for youth & families in Denver.

2022 was truly a year to remember for ELK. After more than a decade of dreaming, we finally moved into our forever home within the Montbello community that we are honored to be a part of. Through on-site educational programming, we reached 1,751 students and families within our brand-new facility in less than six months alone. With newly created programs such as a hands-on nature club and new partnerships that allowed us to host activities such as Latino Conservation Week, The Lounge Mentorship, and Family Fitness, we spent the year laying the groundwork for growth and our ability to successfully hold space as a community hub that has something special for everyone.

We take pride in the togetherness and sharing of power our organization advocates for. We are dedicated to sharing space, information, programs, and knowledge. Our updated mission of “Cultivating a diverse community of leaders and environmental stewards by increasing outdoor equity” speaks to this as we work to bring all voices to the table.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the incredible support we received from numerous individuals and organizations. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our donors, volunteers, Board members, staff, and community partners for their invaluable contributions. Your belief in our mission and dedication to environmental education have been instrumental in driving our success.

Looking ahead, ELK remains committed to expanding our programs, forging new partnerships, and maximizing our impact on

the community. We will continue to develop engaging and innovative hands-on activities, empowering youth, and families alike to become stewards of the environment and champions for conservation in their own communities. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our team and our ELK participants.

In unity,



Juan Pérez Sáez | Executive Director





# ELK MISSION AND VISION

## MISSION

Cultivating a diverse community of leaders and environmental stewards by increasing outdoor equity.

## VISION

ELK envisions a world in which all people are caretakers of themselves, each other and the natural world.





# YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS 2022

## AGES 5-25

**45%**  
HISPANIC/LATINO

**27%**  
AFRICAN AMERICAN

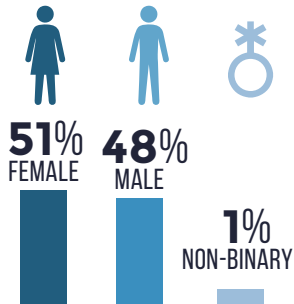
**22%**  
MULTIRACIAL

**5%**  
CAUCASIAN

**1%**  
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

**0%**  
NATIVE AMERICAN

## DENVER, ADAMS, AND ARAPAHOE COUNTIES



**83%**  
OF ELK YOUTH QUALIFY FOR FREE/REDUCED PRICE LUNCH

# IMPACT STATS 2022

**164 ELK PROGRAMS:**  
**5,873** YOUTH & FAMILIES SERVED - **4,487** THROUGH YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS AND **1,386** THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS / SCIENCE & STEM EDUCATION, OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES & CAREER EXPLORATION

**86 SCHOOL PROGRAMS:**  
**1,668** YOUTH  
**4** SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
**12** SCHOOLS

**1,751 YOUTH & FAMILIES** SERVED THROUGH MONTBELLO OPEN SPACE PARK AND ELK EDUCATION CENTER PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND PARTNERSHIPS

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

**COLLEGE ENROLLMENT:**  
HELPED YOUTH OBTAIN **\$11,500** IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

“ELK TOOK ME ON MY FIRST ICE FISHING TRIP, AND NOW MY WHOLE FAMILY IS OBSESSED WITH THE SPORT. WE HAD SO MUCH FUN WITH ELK THAT WE ENDED UP BUYING OUR OWN GEAR AND HAVE BEEN BACK OUT ON THE ICE SEVERAL TIMES ON OUR OWN. I NOW CONSIDER MYSELF AN ICE FISHER!”  
— ELK YOUTH



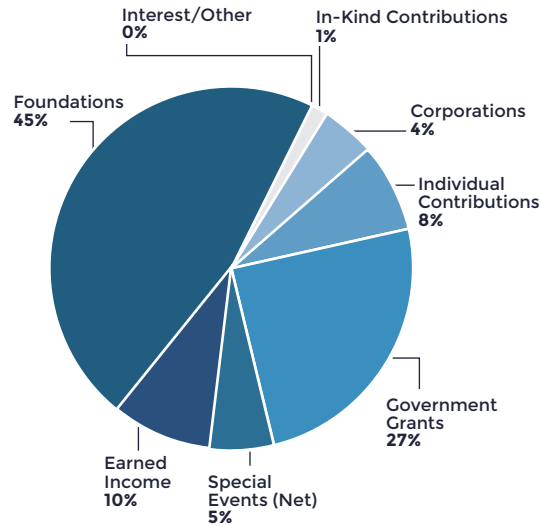
“ELK HAS BEEN A PART OF MY VILLAGE AND I AM VERY PROUD OF THE YOUNG, RESPONSIBLE MAN MY SON HAS EVOLVED INTO. THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES, MENTORS, FRIENDSHIPS, AND EDUCATIONAL/WORK OPPORTUNITIES TRANSFORMED OUR LIVES”  
— ELK PARENT



# 2022 AUDITED FINANCIALS

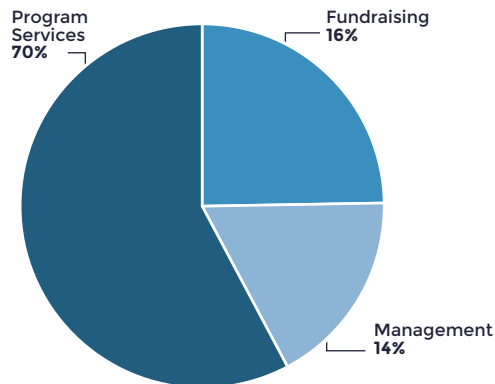
## REVENUE

REVENUE	AMOUNT
Foundations	\$527,000
Corporations	\$42,000
Government Grants	\$313,000
Individual Contributions	\$89,000
Special Events (Net)	\$63,000
Earned Income	\$114,000
In-Kind Contributions	\$9,000
Interest/Other	\$2,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,159,000</b>



## EXPENSES

EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Program Services	\$759,000
Management	\$168,000
Fundraising	\$153,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$1,080,000</b>



**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (OPERATING) \$79,000**

"I CAN CALL ELK FOR ANYTHING, AND THEY'D BE WILLING TO HELP. THEY ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WILL PUT SOMETHING ASIDE TO HELP US."

— ELK YOUTH



## 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 twelve (12)\* schools within four (4)\* 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.

**MONTBELLO OPEN SPACE PARK AND ELK EDUCATION CENTER** in cooperation with the City and County of Denver, programming and activities provide equitable access to the outdoors, STEM learning, and career exploration to far northeast youth & families.

\*School district participation numbers affected by COVID-19 protocols, school-based programming was relaunched in August, 2022.

"I'VE BEEN SO GRATEFUL THROUGHOUT THE LAST 10 YEARS TO HAVE ELK IN MY LIFE AS BOTH A TRAILHEAD FOR WHERE I'M GOING AND AS A TESTAMENT TO WHO I AM."

— ELK YOUTH





# URBAN RANGERS 2022 IMPACT

During 2022, through a partnership between Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the Urban Ranger program outreached to and provided educational, professional development, and employment opportunities to underserved and underrepresented youth from the Denver metropolitan area. In its 10th year, the Urban Ranger program provided employment opportunities to twelve (12) youth and educational experiences for over 422 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 ELK, NPS, USFS, 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.

“I CAN ALWAYS  
COUNT ON ELK TO  
PROVIDE ME WITH A  
STRONG SENSE OF  
FAMILY AND SENSE  
OF SELF.”  
— ELK YOUTH



## 2022 URBAN RANGER HIGHLIGHTS:

**TAUGHT** FISHING CLINICS TO **256** YOUTH **&** **TAUGHT** **71** YOUTH FROM VARIOUS SUMMER CAMPS

**LED** EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH EVENTS FOR **95** YOUTH AND FAMILIES

**REACHED A TOTAL OF** **422** YOUTH AND FAMILIES

**PARTICIPATED** IN A TOTAL OF **68** 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: BARR LAKE STATE PARK, CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE PARK, AND STAUNTON STATE PARK

**WORKED** **68** HOURS AT THE THREE COLORADO STATE PARKS; STATE PARK DAYS INCLUDED A COMBINATION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FIELDWORK, AND PARTICIPATING/ LEADING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**RECEIVED** THEIR WILDERNESS FIRST AID CERTIFICATION AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY:** VOLUNTEERS OF OUTDOOR COLORADO, METRO WASTEWATER, HEADWATERS RIVER JOURNEY CENTER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY, SIERRA CLUB, BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES, CAL-WOOD EDUCATION CENTER, AND COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

## 2022 CONTRIBUTORS LIST

### NORTH AMERICAN ELK \$10,000+

Argosy Foundation  
Charles Schwab  
Denver Active 20/30 Children's  
Foundation  
Evo  
The Gateway Fund II of the  
Denver Foundation  
Great Outdoors Colorado  
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Xcel Energy

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIG HORN SHEEP \$5,000-\$9,999

Climax Molybdenum  
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Colorado Department of  
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Quality Community Foundation  
Tulsa Community Foundation  
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FOR A FULL LIST OF OUR  
2022 SUPPORTERS, PLEASE  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.ELKKIDS.ORG](http://WWW.ELKKIDS.ORG)

### HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gary Nickell in Honor  
of John William's  
Birthday

John William in Honor  
of John William's  
Birthday





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