2022 ANNUAL REPORT
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
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</table>

DENVER, ADAMS, AND ARAPAHOE COUNTIES

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

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

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

86 SCHOOL PROGRAMS: 1,668 YOUTH

4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

12 SCHOOLS

GRADUATES: 100% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE FOR ELK SENIORS

86 SCHOOL PROGRAMS: 1,668 YOUTH

4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

12 SCHOOLS

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

|$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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$527,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$313,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$89,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events (Net)</td>
<td>$63,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>$114,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest/Other</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,159,000</strong></td>
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**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$759,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>$168,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$153,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,080,000</strong></td>
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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (OPERATING)**

$79,000

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“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

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**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 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
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.

2022 URBAN RANGER HIGHLIGHTS:

TAUGHT FISHING CLINICS TO 256 YOUTH & TAUGHT 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

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

– ELK YOUTH
## 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
- Kettering Family Foundation
- Barbara Kingsolver
- Ann & Henry Klaiman
- The Nature Conservancy
- The North Face
- Richard Reed Foundation
- George H. & Estelle M. Sands
- REI Cooperative Action Fund
- Scientific & Cultural Facilities District
- Smartwool
- Tony Grampus Youth Services
- The Trust for Public Land
- The VF Foundation
- The Wilderness Society
- Xcel Energy

### Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep
$5,000-$9,999
- Climax Molybdenum
- Bass Pro Shops & Cabela’s Outdoor Fund
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- The Denver Foundation
- M.B. Glassman Foundation
- Laird Norton Enterprises
- New Belgium Brewery
- The Piton Foundation
- Quality Community Foundation
- Tulsa Community Foundation
- US Bank

### Colorado Blue Spruce
$1,000-$4,999
- Charlie Atkins
- American Stars Cleaning Services
- Robert Bayless
- Conservation Colorado Education Fund
- Norris William Davis, III
- Delta Dental of Colorado
- The Denver Foundation March On Fund
- Denver Office of Economic Development
- Christopher Gallus
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- Councilwoman Stacie and Scott Gilmore
- Lacey Golonka
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- Hispanic Access Foundation
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- Schoelzel Family Foundation
- Daniel P. Schwartz
- Stephanie Tanny
- Emily Thaxton
- Theodore Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Laurie Troge
- VF Outdoor LLC

### Red Fox
$500-$999
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- Colfax Marathon Partnership, Inc.
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- Juan Pérez Sáez
- Anne Pogoriler
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- David Rutherford
- Tom Satter
- Kristin Anne Sullivan
- Juan Urias
- Patrick Walton
- Amanda Wheelock


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Saba Yohannes  
Collen Zbrzeznj  
Emily Zigler

FOR A FULL LIST OF OUR 2022 SUPPORTERS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT 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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