



# ELK YOUTH

# PROGRAMS

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) offers a selection of science and natural resource programs to public and private schools in metro Denver, grades preK-12. All programs are correlated to Colorado state teaching standards and model effective teaching practices. Benefits of ELK's programs are hands-on learning opportunities and improved practical science comprehension.

**Let's explore the natural world and discover all of Colorado's wonderful natural resources!!**

*ELK brings over 60 combined years of science and outdoor education experience to our programming. We are able to tailor and customize other programs to meet your school/organization's programming needs!*

## Mission

Environmental Learning for Kids mission is to cultivate a passion in science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners. Through year-long and multiple-year educational experiences, ELK kids (ages 5-25) and their families develop a strong knowledge of science, natural resources, and various careers that are available in the field.

## Vision

We envision a world in which all people are caretakers of themselves, each other, and the natural world. ELK believes that every child and their family should have the right to self-determine their future - utilizing education, the environment, and their culture to live a high quality, healthy life. ELK values life-long learning, diversity and inclusivity, direct experiences in the outdoors, and development of human potential.



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[www.elkkids.org](http://www.elkkids.org)



## **Backyard (school-yard) Habitat & Ecology (Grades K-6)**

Do any animals live around your school or site? Students will be able to identify what wildlife and birds make their homes in the habitat in your neighborhood. Habitat improvement techniques will be presented for both the area (school yard or site) and their own home backyards. This field-based program develops awareness of habitats and ecosystems. Students will learn to use binoculars and field guides and have the opportunity to identify signs of wildlife.

Program Length: 4 hours

Location: ELK will come to you!



## **ELK Outdoors/Daylong Environmental Education Program (Grades 4-12)**

Students today lack understanding of the opportunities that exist within the field of natural resources; and who better to teach them than ELK, the National Park Service, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife? Environmental Learning for Kids has assembled the best educators from these agencies to ensure a fun and educational day for your students. Students will have the opportunity to hear all about careers within these agencies as well as shoot archery, practice casting and meet real live birds of prey!

Program Length: 6 hours

Location: ELK comes to you!

## **Skins & Skulls (Grades K-6)**

Who do we share our neighborhood with? Students learn about urban wildlife that may live in their neighborhoods as well as the adaptations those animals have developed to survive. Wildlife skins and skulls are used to provide a hands-on learning environment. Students have the opportunity to identify different wildlife species that may live in their community, learn how animals survive in an urban habitat, identify the State of Colorado mammal, flower, tree and dinosaur, and explore how humans affect wildlife and their survival. This program includes leadership and career development components.

Program Length: 1 to 4 hours

Location: ELK will come to you!



## **Just Keep Swimming (Grades K-5)**

Meet a few of ELK's favorite Colorado Game Fish as we explore their habitats and biology. Students will learn about native and non native fish species, aquatic ecology, the macro invertebrates (bugs) that fish thrive on, fish anatomy and adaptations, and discover the environs in which fish live. Then hit the field (or the gym if weather doesn't permit) for casting games with actual fishing rods while learning about fishing ethics and safety. Leadership and career development components included.

Program Length: 4 hours (length can be modified to accommodate multiple class schedules)

Program Location: Your school field or gymnasium

## Ready, Aim, Bullseye! (Grades 4-12)

That's right, Archery! ELK brings our portable archery range and equipment to your school so your students can experience the thrill of accurately shooting a bow and arrow. Now, we know what you're thinking and, YES, this program is perfectly safe! Under the watchful eye of ELK Staff, your students will learn all the basic techniques required to participate in this wonderful sport. This program can also be held indoors with no damage to your gym floors.

*"Our student's have had fantastic experiences with ELK's archery program. They continue to ask if we are going to have the archery program back again each year."*

*– Joseph Stowe, Assistant Principal, Marrama Elementary School*

**Program Length:** Dependant on Participant Numbers

**Program Location:** Your school field or gymnasium

\*ELK Staff are certified National Archery in the Schools Program Instructors



## Habitats of the World Art Mural! (Grades K-6)

Get children in the "habit" of investigating the world around them with this creative animal habitat activity. Children will create beautiful murals depicting animal habitats to encourage the development of science, geography, creative-thinking, and social skills. Discover many different animal habitats while your students get creative! Your students will learn that the Earth supports many different animal habitats, each of which has distinct features, plant, and animal populations.

**Program Length:** 1 hour

**Location:** ELK will come to you!

## Get Eroded! (Grades K-8)

Children love the outdoors regardless of whether they are in their backyards or meandering through a city, state, or national park. Yet few children understand the geographical features of the landscapes they find so fascinating. Erosion represents a significant force in the creation of these landscapes; and learning about erosion will help children to identify the many factors that sculpt the Earth's surface. Students will also be able to strategically identify means to preserve our worlds natural treasures. This program will give students a hands-on learning experience while they conduct several different erosion experiments to reinforce the concepts of erosion. \*Great CSAP prep!

**Program Length:** 1 hour

**Location:** ELK will come to you!

## Who Polluted the South Platte? (Grades 3-12)

This interactive program teaches students about water and how to value water as a finite resource. Students participate in role playing, as different water users, to find out "Who Polluted the South Platte". Topics covered include pollution, conservation, aquatic ecology watersheds and how we get our water in Colorado are also introduced. Students participate in activities that teach about nonpoint and point source pollution, water quality, food webs, and they explore how they can do their part to conserve water. This program includes leadership and career development components.

**Program Length:** 1-2 hours

**Location:** ELK will come to you!



## I Spy.... Wildlife! (Grades K-12)

Join ELK as we teach your students observation and critical thinking techniques through observing nature. Topics include: nature hikes, tree and plant identification, stream sampling demonstrations, aquatic insect viewing, bird and wildlife watching, and games that will both challenge and educate your students. We will also be exploring the interactions between wildlife and their surroundings, discovering the importance of adaptations, and discussing the stability of an ecosystem. Students will also learn: Binocular Basics, Blending in with Nature, Observation Skills and where to look to find front range wildlife. Choose from the following sites to make your field trip convenient and educational:

- \* Barr Lake State Park (Brighton area)
- \* Cherry Creek State Park (Cherry Creek and Aurora)
- \* Waterton Canyon (Jefferson County)
- \* South Platte River (Denver)
- \* Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (Commerce City)

Program Length: 4 hours

Location: Please contact ELK to select the most convenient location for you



## 100 Years of Colorado Wildlife History (Grades K-8)

Colorado's great outdoors and wildlife attracted the original settlers, pioneers, trappers and gold miners to the area over a hundred years ago; learn how they survived and their interactions with the Native Americans of the region. Join Environmental Learning for Kids as we explore how the earliest settlers in Colorado affected the environment, wildlife, and how they learned to thrive in the Rocky Mountains. Topics include: How gold mining changed the west, appreciation for Colorado Wildlife and effective wildlife management practices, the establishment of Colorado as the 38th State and more!

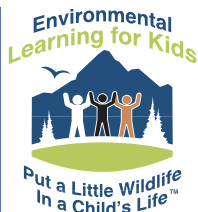
Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Program Location: ELK will come to you!

## History

ELK was established in 1996 by two wildlife biologists who saw a growing need to introduce and educate Colorado's urban youth about science, leadership and careers. Co-founders, Scott and Stacie Gilmore are alumni of a program that Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar started during his tenure at the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Secretary Salazar continues to support ELK through serving on the organization's Advisory Board.

Since ELK's founding, 114,000 youth and families of color have been introduced to and immersed in science education, and many youth have become first generation high school graduates and college students. Fifteen years later, ELK continues to provide strong educational support, good role models, and opportunities for positive community action for youth and their families, helping them to become engaged, productive, and successful members of society.



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*Making It Possible.*