"ELK is my second family."

This quote from our students rings loud and clear to us time and time again here at Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK). For the past four years I’ve been honored to lead an organization that believes every young person - wherever they live and regardless of resources - should have abundant opportunities to connect and engage in a world in which all people are caretakers of themselves, each other, and the natural world.

Like all families, we have a lot to be proud of and our annual report highlights some of these 2018 achievements:

- Provided 2,517 students with school-based educational programming – an increase of nearly 1,000 kids over the prior year!
- Helped ELK students receive over ONE MILLION in scholarship funding since inception.
- Assisted in ELK youth achieving a 100% high school graduation rate in 2018.

Every family also needs a home. ELK, The Trust for Public Land, and Denver Parks and Recreation are working together to transform once neglected property into a natural open space and outdoor learning laboratory. The Montbello Open Space and Education Center will serve as a home for Environmental Learning for Kids and as the far northeast Denver community’s epicenter and trailhead within the urban environment; fostering science, stewardship, and outdoor recreational activities.

Our family is growing, and we look forward to working with you to continue to inspire, educate, and transform the lives of young people living in Denver. Everyone views family differently, and for me, the ELK family means everything. We thank you for all of your support and encouragement of our youth. It truly makes an impact on their lives.

For our youth,

Loretta Pineda, 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.
If I had not found ELK, I would have never had the opportunity to meet with so many biologists, park rangers, and other incredible people, and I would have never even thought about pursuing a career in District Wildlife Management.

- ELK YOUTH

### Demographics

- **52%** Female
- **48%** Male
- **52%** Hispanic/Latino
- **20%** Multiracial
- **20%** African American
- **4%** Asian/Pacific Islander
- **2%** Caucasian
- **2%** American Indian

### Denver, Adams & Arapahoe Counties

- **85%** of ELK youth qualify for free/reduced price lunch
Impact 2018 Stats

**181** ELK Programs

5,308 YOUTH & FAMILIES SERVED

684 through year-round programs & 4,624 through community education programs/STEM education, outdoor experiences & career exploration

**179** School Programs

2,517 Youth + 5 Districts + 29 Schools

100% Graduates

100% high school graduation rate for ELK youth

100% College Enrollment

Helped youth **obtain $90,723** in college scholarships

14 Youth Employed

Summer youth employment **via** Urban Rangers & partnerships

**51** Dosage Hours

Each ELK youth received an average of **51 Hours** of ELK programs/activities

$0 To Participate

100% of ELK youth participated at **no cost!**
**2018 Financial Activity**

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$293,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$54,599</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$127,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board &amp; Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$28,179</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events (Net)</td>
<td>$75,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>$123,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
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<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest/Other</td>
<td>$4,323</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,410,207</strong></td>
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</table>

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$554,801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$103,399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$91,563</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$749,763</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Change in Net Assets:** $660,443
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 twenty-nine (29) 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.
With the summer of 2018 marking its 6th year since inception, the Urban Ranger program provided paid summer employment to ten (10) urban youth who in turn, provided educational experiences to over 5,102 community youth and family members. Through a unique partnership between Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), National Park Service (NPS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR), the Urban Ranger program outreached to and provided educational, professional development, and employment opportunities to underserved and underrepresented youth from the Denver metropolitan area.

The Urban Rangers played an important role in helping ELK, NPS, CPW, and DPR to fulfill their missions to reach out to and inform urban communities about what each organization has to offer. Through trainings administered by NPS Rangers, CPW Rangers, ELK staff, and DPR staff, the Urban Rangers were able to work as educational facilitators and ambassadors on behalf of all agencies throughout their urban communities.

The Urban Rangers taught fishing clinics to 1,091 youth and families and conducted 22 fishing clinics in urban communities. They taught school-based Science and Natural Resource educational programs and camps to 539 youth from the Denver Metro area.

The Urban Rangers spent a total of 104 hours on camping/overnight trips. This year, the Rangers camped at CSU Mountain Campus, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park, and Rocky Mountain National Park.

The Urban Rangers led educational programs and outreach events for 3,472 youth and families, reaching a total of 5,102 youth and families.

The Urban Rangers participated in a total of 122 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.

The Rangers received hands-on work experience and professional development at four State Parks: Cherry Creek, Barr Lake, Golden Gate Canyon, and Staunton State Park where they spent 13 days working a total of 111 hours at four Colorado State Parks; State Park days included a combination of professional development, fieldwork, and participating/leading educational activities.

"ELK is the only place that is a safe-zone for me. I can be myself and everyone accepts me how I come because we are family. They offer so many opportunities that minorities like me would never get a chance to do otherwise."

- ELK YOUTH
Contributors List

Thanks to our 2018 supporters who made it possible to transform the lives of our youth!

ELK means love and discovering your true self. I love that it’s my second family and that the staff care about us like we are their children.

- ELK YOUTH

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$10,000+

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Richard E. Poole
In memory of Pops Gilmore
Brandy Raday
In memory of Theodore Charles Raday

For a full list of our 2018 supporters please visit our website at www.ELKKids.org
ELK means a lot to me. ELK has great opportunities to go on trips as a family. Our family is taken everywhere and we get to meet nature.

- ELK PARENT