

# ENOR Environmental Discovery Camp 2016 Annual Report

## HUGHESNET GRANT

ENOR Environmental Discovery 4-H Camp received a HughesNet sponsored STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Experience this summer.

Campers developed awareness and knowledge of natural and cultural sciences and life skills. The STEM-filled camp days consisted of insect scavenger hunts, examining how the sun makes energy, and exploring a turtle pond, among other activities. With the HughesNet grant, the program was able to purchase 20 new GPS units, binoculars, water testing equipment, and other technology that was used by campers this summer. The new equipment will also be available for 4-H'ers to use across the state throughout the year!



### By the numbers

630 – campers

77 – attended camp on a scholarship

10 – youth leaders volunteered a total of 867 hours



### Sampling of results from the HughesNet Survey I like learning about the environment and nature.

99% - Strongly agree/agree

1% - Disagree/strongly disagree

### I understand how science, technology, or engineering can solve problems.

93% - Strongly agree/agree

6% - Disagree/strongly disagree

### I learned how to use new technology this week.

77% - Strongly agree/agree

21% - Disagree/strongly disagree

### I want to learn more about science, technology, or engineering.

91% - Strongly agree/agree

7% - Disagree/strongly disagree

## ENOR IMPACT STORIES

Does a week-long ENOR camp experience have positive short and long term impacts on the youth that attend? We collected stories from current and past campers to gain insight into that question. We also surveyed campers and parents alike about a change in attitude as a result of attending an ENOR camp.

### ENOR stories

#### WILLA - 3rd grade Woodpecker camper 2016

Willa is already an avid outdoors child. She likes to create, imagine, observe, grow, move, and discover all those things that our family thinks are just part of childhood. So, Woodpecker's Hollow was in Willa's comfort zone, generally. But Willa found that it challenged her and gave her something to aspire to. She talks about becoming an Owl next year - she looked up to those kids. The agricultural information broadened her idea of nature beyond 'wilderness'.

The journal was a great learning tool so that she went from discovery, to learning. At ENOR, Willa got to do the things she loves with lots of other kids, and it expanded her social skills. I think that kids who are new to nature and agriculture benefit from

mingling with kids who are comfortable in it. Our family gives a huge THANKS to the folks who make ENOR possible and accessible.

**AVERY – 6th grade Falcon camper 2016**

My daughter Avery has attended ENOR camp for the past three summers. She is actually quite upset that she has aged out of the program now. She has loved every aspect of ENOR; this past summer in particular as they learned about fire mitigation from the JCOS Ecological Services Team, and water testing and treatment.



She is only a sixth grader, but now studies water testing and treatment and forestry for fun. She has declared that she would like to attend Colorado State University where she can study some form of environmental science, particularly in the area of water conservation and treatment. She is trying harder and doing better in both math and science at school because she can now see the value of it in what she would like to study in the future. Thank you all for sparking this passion.

**BEN – Owl and Eagle camper 2009-10**

My name is Ben Kusnetzky and I've had the pleasure of not only working with ENOR for two years, but also going through the camp as an elementary schooler. This camp changes lives. I could tell you about our curriculum or how great the educators are (they are all amazing) or I could tell you about the majestically gorgeous places we go. I'd much rather describe how both going through the camp and teaching at the camp has changed me as a person.

ENOR and those who run it have opened my eyes and mind to more than just the stereotypical teenage lifestyle. As a seventeen-year-old I feel I fall into the idea that we teenagers are obsessed with technology, video games, etcetera. I'll admit, before fourth grade when my mom made me go to this camp with no one I knew and nothing I knew about, I did enjoy video games and social media much more than I do now. After that first year of Owls camp I became obsessed, not with technology but with nature and environment and the idea of a simplistic lifestyle.

After that year I could not wait to go back next year for Eagles camp. Ever since then I have been hiking, fishing, camping, rock climbing, snowshoeing, and much more. I can honestly say that those two years changed my life and made me the person I am today. Now every year I'm eager to offer my time to share what I've learned and try to give the same experience I was given. Today I not only work with ENOR, but I've been a high school leader at the Outdoor Lab Mount Evans School. I currently plan on taking a semester teaching internship there starting in January as well as volunteering at ENOR in the summer.

None of this would've happened without my two years as a camper. Personally I think ENOR should be offered through the summer before freshman year to expose kids about to go into high school to nature instead of social media and video games. Eagle's Nest and Owl's Roost has changed me and I can see it changing campers' lives each week in the summer. In short, ENOR has made me who I am today and continues to shape the lives of many children each year.

**CHANGE OF ATTITUDE**

“How has your (or your child's) attitude about being outdoors changed because of your (his/her) time at camp?” Sixty percent of campers and 57% of parents responded in the positive that attitudes towards being outdoors had changed as a result of attending an ENOR camp for the week.



### Sampling of camper responses:

*"I have come to learn to leave wildlife alone. I see a lot more than just grass and trees now."*

#### Falcon camper

*"It has changed my attitude by making me want to study the outdoors and nature."*

#### Eagle camper

*"My attitude has changed because I used to play video games all day and know [sic] I want to be outside more."*

#### Owl camper



### NEW TO THE ENOR FAMILY

With the development of a new curriculum for 3rd grade Woodpecker's Hollow camp, the third grade program has become a permanent part of the ENOR camp line-up. In addition to increased opportunities for programming and activities to be conducted at local open space parks, the new curriculum provides continuity to the program, and fits into the ENOR Mission Statement. Thanks to the HughesNet grant that ENOR received this year, the equipment and supplies needed to continue into the future were purchased.



### Sampling of parent responses:

*"He has always loved the outdoors, this has made him even more enthusiastic, and interested in careers outdoors."*

#### Parent of Owl camper

*"He loved every day of camp and can't wait to come back each day. He wants the whole family to go on more hikes."*

#### Parent of an Owl camper

*"He knows more about nature, increased self confidence, growth in leadership qualities."*

#### Parent of an Eagle camper

*"Even though he didn't want to go on the first day, by the second he was raring to go! Connecting with nature gives you empathy."*

#### Parent of a Falcon camper

*"She is more enthused about doing longer hikes and wants to show us what she has learned. She wants to go to Open Space parks that our family hasn't visited but she knows about because of camp."*

#### Parent of a Falcon camper



A program like ENOR is made possible with support from our partners. From the richness and depth of experience provided to our staff during training, to time taken from busy schedules to create supplemental activities and conduct tours, this camp is successful due to the generosity of many people and organizations. Gifts of time, financial aid, general financial support, and expertise are greatly appreciated.

*Providing tours and activities that support ENOR curriculum*

**Colorado School of Mines – Edgar Mine**  
Gilpin County Historical Society and Museum  
**Jefferson County Open Space Park Rangers,**  
**Ecological Services Team, LMNC, and**  
**Hiwan Homestead**  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers - Chatfield Dam  
**Wild Wings Environmental Education**

*Providing use of facilities and public lands*

**Apex Recreation Center**  
Golden Gate State Park  
**Jeffco Schools Mt. Evans OELS**  
Jefferson County Fairgrounds  
**Jefferson County Open Space**  
Lookout Mountain Nature Center  
**South Platte Park**

*Providing scholarship funds or other financial assistance to conduct program*

**HughesNet**  
Jeffco Outdoors Foundation  
**Jefferson County 4-H Foundation**  
Theta Eta Chapter ESA

*Additional support comes from:*

**Colorado State University**  
Jeffco Public Schools- printing and transportation  
**Lookout Mountain Nature Center – staff training**

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