

# **Scott Masao Gilmore**

## **Recipient of the February 2011 Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award**

Scott Masao Gilmore's tireless volunteer efforts started at an early age, and they continue today. Even as Scott worked at a warehouse to put himself through college, he discovered his passion for volunteerism, teaching the public about the environment and its importance to wildlife at a nearby state park. This was only the beginning for Scott, as he has now spent nearly three decades combining his love of wildlife and his dedication to volunteerism to improve his community.

When Scott first began volunteering in the area of wildlife and the environment, he was struck by the lack of cultural diversity in the field. This took Scott, a Denver native of African-American and Japanese descent, to CSU, where he graduated as a wildlife biologist. After graduating, Scott worked for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, where he helped create an urban fishing program that introduced inner-city youth to the importance of environmental conservation through the joy of fishing.

Scott and his wife Staci next cofounded the nonprofit [Environmental Learning for Kids](#) (ELK). ELK is aimed at low-income, inner-city youth, and provides mentoring and programs to expose these kids to nature and opportunities within the field of natural resources. Students at ELK learn about service, nature and social justice through fun activities such as fishing, hiking and camping.

Scott also serves on the Denver Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as the Montbello representative. He also serves on a variety of community boards and committees, all in an effort to connect people with ways to improve schools, businesses, and the environment.

Scott teaches and mentors from his heart. He loves being a role model to both adults and children. Scott's efforts exemplify the positive impact one person can have on his community. Scott designated his \$2000 award to [Environmental Learning for Kids](#).