Talal is an IVLP alumnus from Libya who participated in the Parks and Protected Area Management Program in August 2017. During this program, he met with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, the Nature Conservancy, Visit Denver, the Colorado Wildlife Federation, and the Girls Scouts of Colorado. The group visited Chatfield State Park, Garden of the Gods, and Rocky Mountain National Park. They volunteered at South Platte Park and enjoyed a WorldDinner with a local family.
“Denver Colorado was distinct from all the other states we visited because people were very friendly and welcoming. Denver was the only place people would say hello or say good evening to us when we're sitting in front of our hotel. The hotel was very classy and elegant, and the staff at the hotel was rushing to fulfill all our requests.

Our main group was made up of 27 participants from different countries of the world from all continents. Our small group was from 6 different countries and different languages and we were a very harmonious group. I was the only one who was from the whole Arab region and it made me feel proud. One morning, we took a long hiking tour in Denver and walked for a while by the river or canyon while our guide would explain everything to us. Another day, we had a very special trip to the Rocky Mountains and saw large herds of elk deer. There I truly felt I was in Colorado. Days impossible to forget.”

- TALAL BARIUN