These traveling educational trunks help make natural history come alive for your classroom.

Each trunk is filled with interdisciplinary and scientifically-accurate educational materials such as grizzly hides, wolf skulls, age-appropriate lesson plans, posters, videos, curriculum guide, games and puppets.

Trunks are sent statewide to Montana teachers, reaching over 4,000 students annually.

To reserve a trunk, please call **406.327.0405** during our business hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

*(Please do not email your request – call us directly!)*
Renting a Trunk

Trunks can be rented for 2 weeks for $35 or 3 weeks for $45. Contact us to discuss longer rentals. Payment must be made in full to confirm reservation. Users are responsible for contents of the trunk and shipping charges. Trunks cannot be shipped out of state. For in-state shipping, a $150 damage deposit is required to confirm your reservation. After the trunk is returned, we will refund the balance minus rental & shipping costs. One way shipping in state may cost up to $100 depending on size of trunk. Trunks are subject to a $35 late fee if not returned on time.

These trunks can also be picked up at the Montana Natural History Center at 120 Hickory Street, Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. A limited number of scholarships are available if you cannot find funding to cover rental and/or shipping costs.
Funding

The Nature Discovery Traveling Trunk program is funded by program fees and supplemented by grants and donations to keep costs low for participating schools. Scholarships may be available for rural schools to offset shipping costs.

Southgate Mall

We are delighted that Missoula’s Southgate Mall has generously underwritten our traveling trunk program so that we may keep our rental rates low and still offer a quality program for teachers, students, and local youth groups who enjoy the trunks.
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This trunk is designed to explore how animals survive and adapt to winter. Students can explore winter tracking, physical, and behavioral adaptations of common Montana mammals. The trunk includes synthetic track molds, animal furs, a resource library, and more. The materials are suitable for all grade levels but the curriculum is targeted for Grades 3-5.
Featuring high-quality research tools, this trunk provides everything you need to lead students through classroom and field trip-based investigations in the study of aquatic invertebrates. The trunk features a curriculum guide with lab exercises, equipment for quantitative study, student sampling materials and lots of background information to set up quality science inquiry activities.

**Equipment**
1. D-Frame Kick Net
2. 3 Surber Stream-Bottom Samplers
3. 16 Critter Picking Pans
4. 16 Pairs of Forceps
5. 12 Sink Sieves
6. 50 Plastic Vials
7. 19 Clear Plastic Dishes with Lids
8. 16 Clear Plastic Rulers
9. 16 Hand Lenses
10. 16 Teasing Needles
11. 1 Leaf Pack Macroinvertebrate Identification Flash Cards

**Books**
- *Adventures with Fresh Water Animals* by Richard Headstrom
- *Field Manual for Water Quality Monitoring*
- *Aquatic Entomology*
- *Aquatic Insects of North America*
- *Field Guides to Macroinvertebrates of the Pacific Northwest*

**Presentation Materials**
- CD with PowerPoint – *Aquatic Insects of North America*
- Aquatic Invertebrate Slide Show
This trunk includes a set of 15 Eagle Optics Kingbird 6.5×32 binoculars for use by all ages. Each pair of binoculars has an adjustable neck strap.
This trunk offers a glimpse into our local watershed. Take an imaginary journey using a hand-painted floor map and wooden figurines to tell the stories of historical characters whose lives were dependent on water. Curriculum and multimedia materials addressing watershed issues are included. Themes covered include the water cycle, water quality, bull trout, aquatic life, and human impacts.

Books
- A River Ran Wild
- Earthwise At Home
- Four Ancestors
- Ospreys
- River Life

Videos
- Bull Trout Recovery
- Salmon Tales

Other Materials
- Brochures and Publications on watersheds and stewardship
- Scripts for performances including “Bull Trout Epic” and “Tedd’s Underwater Adventure”
- Photographs depicting a range of ecological and historical elements of the Clark Fork Watershed
- Cassette Tapes: Mother Earth, Storytelling Tape of River Song and The Water Gobblers
- Felt story board of Glacial Lake Missoula
- Magazines and Articles that feature the Clark Fork Watershed
- Maps: Lolo National Forest, Northern Region-ID, MT, ND, SD, WA, Rand McNally: ID & MT, Thompson travel map
- Hand Lenses
- Posters for classroom displays
- Puppets: Bull trout life cycle puppets (2 adults, 4 juvenile, 5 fingerlings, 6 sac fry, 7 eggs)
- Role-play game featuring water rights
- Watershed Journey Story cards, watershed floor map and wooden characters and totems
Exploring Wetlands

This trunk features everything you need to bring the wonders of ponds and wetlands to your students, including a great library of children's books, field guides, animal track molds, a bat and muskrat specimen and collection jars and hand lenses for studying your aquatic discoveries. The curriculum guide features lessons to accompany the materials.

Track Molds
- Beaver
- Frog
- Goose
- Great Blue Heron (2)
- Mallard Duck
- Muskrat (2)
- River Otter (2)

Books
- Beavers
- Frog Girl
- Eliza and the Dragonfly
- Salamander Rain
- Swamp Life
- The Sacred Harvest
- Watching Water Birds
- Dragonfly
- Eyewitness Juniors – Amazing Bats
- In the Pond
- Joyful Noise, Poems for Two Voices
- Pond Life: See the natural work of a pond as never before!
- Tadpole and Frog
- The Salamander Room
- One Small Square: Pond

Field Guides
- A Golden Guide: Pond Life
- Animal Tracks of the Rocky Mountains
- Tracks, Scats, and Signs
- Track Finders Guide
- Wetlands
- Frogs, Toads, and Turtles
- America’s Wetlands: Guide to Plants and Animals
- OBIS Pond Guide
- Pond Life by Gerald Cox

Materials
- Being Amphibian card sets (3)
- Ice cube trays (4)
- Jeweler’s Loupes (18)
- Plastic viewing containers (5)
- Little Brown Bat mount
- Muskrat in lavender cloth bag
- Bed Boat Flannel Story
- Ball of string
- Wacky and Wild Wetland journals
- Frog Life Cycle Magnets (9 pieces)

Music
- Marshland Bird Walk CD

Plastic Folders
- Food Web Card Set & Directions (36 cards)
- Insect I.D. Books (5)
Fireworks

These three trunks together include nearly everything you’d need for a truly hands-on experience learning about fire ecology. Activity themes include: wildfire behavior, forest change, plant and animal adaptations to fire, and management of wildland fire. The trunks provide a range of materials for experiments, research projects, student presentations, creative arts, and science inquiry. For more information, take a look at the fire lab’s website (http://www.firelab.org/science-applications/science-synthesis/75-fireworks) about the Fireworks Trunk.

* Trunks cannot be shipped due to weight.

**Plant Specimens**
- Tree cookies
- Extra large tree cookie photographs
- Tree cones
- Examples of fuels: dry needles, Lodgepole pine cones, mineral soil, duff, fine branches and thick branches

**Equipment**
- Materials for a Match Stick Forest experiment (4 stations)
- Hand lenses
- Measuring tape and rulers
- Thermometers
- Fire experiment equipment including: chemistry support stand posts, support stand bases, rod segments, 500 ml beakers, votive candles, clamps for chemistry support stand, safety goggles, rod segments with alligator clips, spray bottles, fire extinguisher, cookie sheets

**Books**
- Book of Fire
- Field Guide to Forest Plants of North Idaho
- Fire, a Force of Nature
- Fire in the Forest
- Graced by Pines
- Legends of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water
- Plant Survival
- Tree Basics
- Wildfire
- Yellowstone on Fire

**Videos**
- Fire and Wildlife
- International Crown Fire Modeling Experiments
- Kinds of Fire
- Managing Wildland Fire: A Matter of Choice
- Wildfire: Preventing Home Ignitions
- Yellowstone Aflame
- Yellowstone: Unfinished Song

**Other Materials**
- Complete curriculum with student pages
- Teacher’s Packet
- Materials and equipment to set up classroom learning stations
- Felt board for succession and habitat discussions
- Posters for classroom display
- Student Evaluation Kit including tests and quizzes from FireWorks teachers
- Variety of games, student activities and worksheets
- A generous collection of field guides, handbooks, and magazines!
Glacial Lake Missoula

This trunk provides everything necessary to conduct a detailed investigation of the dramatic ice-age floods that shaped our landscape over 12,000 years ago. Full of lessons, maps, pictures, and extension activities, your students won’t be able to get enough! A great geology resource and an amazing natural history detective story with evidence in our own backyards.

Books
- Cataclysms of the Columbia
- After the Ice Age
- Glacial Lake Missoula
- Ice Age Mammals of North America
- Northwest Exposures
- Roadside Geology of Montana
- Roadside Geology of Washington

Videos
- Ice Age Flood
- Sculpted By Floods
- The Great Floods
- The Really Really Big Floods

Other Materials
- Curriculum Guide
- Slide show
- 4 mystery boxes and materials for hands-on investigations
- Maps of Glacial Lake Missoula and the Americas
- Poster: Floods of Epic Proportions/Ice Age Floods
- Poster: Extent of Continental Ice
GPS Units

This trunk includes a set of 14 Garmin MAP 60 units for classroom or group use. The units come with preloaded maps and software and are easy to use. The trunk includes instruction guides, cables to connect the units to computers, and CDs with additional computer software to use with the units. Curriculum is not provided with this trunk.

The GPS units are available for free shipping through a partnership with the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals. Contact us for more details.

Equipment
14 Garmin GPS MAP 60 GPS units with wrist lanyards
14 USB cords
14 GPS MAP 60 map navigator owner’s manuals
14 GPS MAP 60 map navigator quick start guides
14 belt clips for GPS units
2 Garmin Trip & Waypoint Manager software CDs
Batteries
Healthy Air, Healthy Communities

Air pollution in the inner-mountain west is the focus of this unit, empowering learners to protect our precious air quality. Hands-on activities integrate the subject areas of science, mathematics, health, social studies, and language arts. The trunk includes experiment materials for creating a miniature inversion!

**Equipment**
- Experiment materials including slides, petri dishes, and magnifying glasses
- Materials for miniature inversion demonstration
- Materials for lung investigations
- Sample air filters provided by the Health Department

**Other Materials**
- Teacher’s Guide
- “Inside Your Lungs” poster
- Posters detailing tips on how to improve air quality
- Role-playing activities
- Puppets:
  - 1 person puppet
  - 1 miniature sweater
  - 1 bike puppet
  - 1 automobile puppet
  - 1 woodstove puppet
  - 1 recycling bin/factory puppet
  - 1 clean air/dust cloud puppet
  - 1 green zippered bag
  - 1 tape: “A Kid’s-Eye View of the Environment”

This trunk is sponsored by the Center for Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Montana.
This exciting hands-on trunk consists of a loon mount, costume, puppets, books, videos, posters, and more. It features a wealth of activities — crafts, music, drama, poetry, puzzles, loon science, math, geography, and conservation. Discover the legend of loons and their remarkable lives with this engaging trunk. It was created by Montana Loon Society members: U.S. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, Amy Jacobs, Junior High and High School Life Science teacher and President of the Montana Loon Society, Lynn Kelly, and children's nature book author, author of *Loons, Diving Birds of the North*, and secretary of the Montana Loon Society, Donna Love.
This trunk includes 12 classroom and field Brock Magiscopes. These microscopes do not require batteries or electricity and with only one moving part, are perfect for use by kids and adults of all ages. This model has a 5x eyepiece and a 4X objective lense, for 20x magnification.

Trunk Materials
12 Brock Magiscopes
This trunk brings geology, Montana history and the story of mining for minerals into the classroom with hands-on learning. Themes include: rocks and minerals, formation of rocks, history of mining and equipment, how minerals are found, why mining continues and what mined minerals are used for. The kit includes curriculum guides, examples of rocks and minerals, posters, examples of mining equipment and tools, examples of products made from mined minerals—everything you need to learn about mining in Montana.

* Mining trunk cannot be shipped due to weight.
Montana Wildlife

With this resource and curriculum, students become wildlife biologists, completing a creative research project about the mammals of Western Montana. They will link directly with Condon Wildlife Cams to learn about and see real wildlife being monitored in the mountains of Montana. Along the way, teachers lead students in learning about animal habitat, body structure, food, range, distinguishing characteristics, and tracks, as well as the skills of a field biologist and phenology as it relates to Montana wildlife. Projects from the trunk can be used long after the trunk is returned through access to the Montana wildlife monitoring website.

Scholarships provided by Blackfoot Communications for schools in the following areas: Alberton, Avon, Arlee, Charlo, Clinton, Condon, Dixon, Drummond, Noxon, Ovando, Philipsburg, Plains, Potomac, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Seeley Lake, Superior, and Thompson Falls.

Animal Specimens
- Coyote skull
- Snowshoe hare skull
- Fox skull
- Cougar skull
- Deer skull
- Grizzly Bear tracks
- Striped Skunk tracks
- Black Bear tracks
- Coyote tracks
- Bobcat tracks
- Deer tracks
- Cougar tracks
- Red fox tracks
- Squirrel tracks
- Snowshoe hare tracks

Books
- Animal Senses by Pamela Hickman
- In the Woods by Lindsay Barrett George
- In the Snow by Lindsay Barrett George
- The Skull Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta
- Who’s Been Here? by Fran Hodgkins
- Animals Hibernating by Pamela Hickman
- Rocky Mountain Mammal Field Guides
- Scat and Tracks field guide
- Sibley’s Guide to Birds

Other Materials
- Curriculum/Teacher’s Guide
- Posters for room displays
- Materials for a variety of games
- 2 pairs of binoculars
- Materials to set up classroom learning stations
- Songbird Bingo Playing Cards
- A real remote sensing camera that actually works!
- Science Kit for experiments
This two-to-four week thematic unit involves students in a hands-on exploration of the geologic and human history of this unique Missoula landmark. Specific plant and animal relationships are also covered. A slide show, books, transparencies, field guides, posters, and biological specimens are all included.
Lying in the shadow of the Rockies, the prairies comprise nearly one third of the continent. Discover this unique ecosystem and the many creatures that depend on the grassland habitats. The trunk contains curriculum materials, books, videos, prints, and hides.

**Grade level: K-12**

**Animal Specimens**
- Badger pelt
- Black-footed ferret pelt
- Coyote pelt
- Prairie dog pelt
- Swift fox pelt
- Badger skull
- Black-tailed prairie dog skull
- Coyote skull
- Pronghorn skull
- Bison horn
- Pronghorn horn
- Bighorn sheep pelt
- Bison pelt
- Elk pelt
- Mule deer pelt
- Pronghorn pelt
- White-tail deer pelt

**Books**
- Grasslands
- Prairie Dogs
- Prairies
- The Life of Prairies and Plains
- Where are My Prairie Dogs and Black-Footed Ferrets?

**Other Materials**
- Teacher’s Curriculum binder
- Teacher’s Guide
- Reference Notebook
- Slide show
- Felt storyboard
- Puppets
- Posters
- Videos
The Raptors of the Rockies Traveling Trunk is an excellent resource for teaching students about Montana’s birds of prey. The trunk contains 10 raptor mounts encased in Plexiglass, plus bird parts such as feathers, wings, feet and an owl skull. Also included is a box of laminated Species Accounts and Range Maps of the 31 raptors of Montana, plus a glossary and sheets on silhouettes, taxonomy and topography. Copies of the book *Raptors of the Rockies* plus 5 other selected books on the topic serve as references. **Because they contain protected birds, they must remain within the state of Montana.**

The basic outline of 15 activities for classes using the trunks has been written by Kate Davis and Leslie Nyce. Although it is not the same as a live bird show, it should be equally informative and interesting for your students!
Explore the natural history of migratory birds with this award-winning trunk! Learn about their life in Mexico and Montana, and find out about the increasing problems they face in their summer and winter homes. Help students appreciate songbirds and learn how to help insure that their songs always herald spring in the Rockies. The trunk includes a curriculum guide, specimens, books, puppets, tapes, videos, and a felt storyboard.

**Animal Specimens**
- Western meadowlark
- Swainson’s thrush
- Yellow-rumped warbler
- Rufous hummingbird

**Books**
- *Birds of Passage*
- *Birds over Troubled Forests*
- *Exploration into Latin America*
- *Eye Witness Book: Birds*
- *Feathered Travelers*
- *Fiesta! Mexico and Central America*
- *Flute’s Journey*
- *Golden Field Guide Birds of North America*
- *How Do Birds Find Their Way?*
- *Naturescope: Birds, Birds, Birds*
- *Save My Rainforest*
- *Song of the Swallows*
- *The Hummingbirds’ Gift*
- *The Hummingbird King*
- *El Rey Colibri (The Hummingbird King in Spanish)*
- *Zoobooks: Hummingbirds*

**Posters**
- Bird Migration in the Americas
- Birds of Two Worlds
- Disappearing Habitat, Disappearing Birds with Guide
- International Migratory Bird Day
- Map of the Americas
- Partners in Flight

**Other Materials**
- Teacher’s Guide/Curriculum Binder
- Reference materials on migratory birds
- Bird puppets
- Student research kits for seven different bird species
- Felt storyboard
- Video
- Cassette tapes
- Newsletters
- Newspaper articles
Many of Montana’s animals face extinction due to habitat loss. Learn of the tenuous existence of these animals and what steps are being taken to recover their populations. Inside the trunk you will find hides, specimens, books, posters, videos, plaster tracks, and a curriculum guide.

**Animal Specimens**
- Black bear skull (for comparison)
- Black-footed ferret skull reproduction
- Forester’s tern specimen (similar species)
- Fur samples from various bears: black, brownish black, & grizzly
- Grizzly bear hide in separate container
- Grizzly bear skull
- Semi-palmeted plover specimen (similar species)

**Books**
- Acting for Nature
- A Gap in Nature
- Baby Wolf
- Dear Children of the Earth
- Eagles for Kids
- Endangered Animals
- Dot to Dot
- Ghost Bat in a Gum Tree
- Golden Guide: Endangered Animals
- A Grain of Rice

**Videos**
- Grizzly and Man, an Uneasy Truce
- Montana’s Endangered Animals
- Small Bird Alert: Least Terns and Piping Plovers
- The Mysterious Black-Footed Ferret

**Other Materials**
- Teacher’s Guide
- Species Exploration Notebook
- Interior least tern felt silhouette
- Piping plover felt silhouette
- Games
- Booklets
- Magazines
- Posters
- Flannel board activity
- Story skin in fur pouch, with small plastic animal figures in bag
- Black-footed ferret stick puppets
- Bulletin board aids
- Definition cards
- Careers in wildlife conservation materials
- Cassette tapes
- Photographs
Many of Montana’s animals face extinction due to habitat loss. Learn of the tenuous existence of these animals and what steps are being taken to recover their populations. Inside the trunk you will find hides, specimens, books, posters, videos, plaster tracks, and a curriculum guide.

**Animal Specimens**
- Canada lynx skull
- Coyote rubber foot model
- Coyote skull (for comparison)
- Crane legs
- Gray wolf footprint plaster cast
- Gray wolf skull
- Sandhill crane specimen (similar species)
- Whooping crane felt silhouette
- Wolf and coyote fur samples
- Wolf stamp

**Books**
- Acting for Nature
- The Company We Keep
- Dear Children of the Earth
- A Gap in Nature
- How Birds Learned to Fly
- Old Man Coyote
- Season of the Cranes
- There’s Still Time
- The Whooping Crane: A Comeback Story
- Zoobooks: Endangered Species
- Zoobooks: Wolves

**Videos**
- A Place for Whooping Cranes
- Eagles
- Montana’s Endangered Animals
- Mountain Pallid Sturgeon Outdoor Report
- Small Bird Alert: Least Terns & Piping Plovers
- The Mysterious Black-Footed Ferret
- The Wolf

**Other Materials**
- Teacher’s Guide
- Species Exploration Notebook
- Bulletin board aids
- Careers in wildlife conservation
- Wolf reintroduction simulation game
- Who Am I? game
- Endangered species act information
- Posters
- Cassette tapes
Many of Montana’s animals face extinction due to habitat loss. Learn of the tenuous existence of these animals and what steps are being taken to recover their populations. Inside the trunk you will find hides, specimens, books, posters, videos, plaster tracks, and a curriculum guide.
The Montana Natural History Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to connect people with nature. Our mission is to promote and cultivate the appreciation, understanding and stewardship of nature through education. To this end, we offer more than 25 different programs and resources, provide direct experiences in nature for more than 3000 children and adults annually, and reach out to more than 10,000 additional people in the region through our Montana Naturalist magazine and Field Notes radio program on Montana Public Radio.