

EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS Available in NW Montana



Art & Indian Education



Traveling Medicine Show

(Grades K-12) – *from the Hockaday Museum of Art, Cost: \$250 per day with additional charges for out-of-area transportation and Blackfeet artist participation.*

(Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268;

education@hockadaymuseum.org) *Financial assistance may be possible.* This outreach program features

ancient, traditional, and contemporary art and artifacts chosen in collaboration between the Hockaday Museum of Art and members of the Blackfeet Indian Nation.

Explorations begin with an exhibition accompanied by a special presentation about the more than 150 items.

Each visit is custom crafted for the participating group

and may include artist demonstrations, art projects, games and other student activities. When possible, visits include participation by a Blackfeet artist.

From Plains To Plateau: Artistic Traditions of Northwest Montana Tribes – (Grades K-12) – *free for Hockaday Museum of Art Member Schools, \$25 for others* (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268;

education@hockadaymuseum.org) Blackfeet and other artists from the Northern Plains share their culture through traditional, historic, and contemporary art. Items in this trunk include both one and two piece moccasins, jewelry, a Blackfeet doll, games, parfleche, CD's, photographs, art prints, posters, a touch and feel box of raw material samples, and a teacher's trunk guide.

Home on the Plains: Artistry of Montana Indian Tribes – (Grades K-12) – *free for Hockaday Museum of Art Member Schools, \$25 for others* (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268;

education@hockadaymuseum.org). The focus of this trunk is the culture and art associated with historical home life of Plains Indian Tribes. Blackfeet tipi prints, a model lodge, an envelope parfleche, games, books, art prints, paintings, and raw material samples fill this trunk. The accompanying trunk guide includes artist biographies, reference materials, and an assortment of art projects.

Birds

Bird ID and Costume Trunk – (Pre-school and primary school) - *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, online reservations at www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/ (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pickup, or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions.)* What's a great way to learn about what makes a bird? By becoming one of course! This trunk provides a costume to dress your students up with all the major bird adaptations to turn them into "real" birds of a feather!

Chickadee Who's Who? Learning ID Strategies – *free from the Flathead Audubon Chapter, online reservations at www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/*



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(Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions.) Using an interchangeable-parts “Chickadee costume”, students will dress each other as a Black-capped, Mountain, Boreal, or Chestnut-backed Chickadee by changing the head-piece and / or torso-vest of the costume. The changes will be subtle, so at each change, students will read about the habitat, habits and listen to vocalizations for that particular species of Chickadee – to associate the “look” of each bird to information which shows other ways of separating their identities.

Common Birds of the Flathead Trunk – (Elementary to High School) - free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, **online reservations** at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions) Students will learn about the most visible birds around Flathead Valley. Trunk includes preserved bird specimens, slides, CD, pictures and worksheets! Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12.

Field Studies Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter - **online reservations** at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions)

Trunk #1 (in two boxes, for 5th grade and above) is a classroom set of 20 National Geographic Bird Guides and 20 Eagle Optics 6.5 x 32 binoculars. Twelve (12) optional extra “7×35” power Nikon binoculars can be added for larger classes.



Trunk #2 (in one box, for younger students 2nd to 5th grade) there is also a classroom set of 10 Montana Birds field guides and 8 smaller-sized binoculars that are “8×28” power. The second set can also be used by older students. Use of these trunks can help your students gain basic birding skills including use and care of binoculars and bird identification techniques! Both trunks contain basic instructions on how to adjust and use binoculars.

The Changing Neighborhood Trunk – (Pre-school, Primary and Elementary) - free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, **online reservations** at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions.) Use felt figures to relay the story of environmental change and the effects of change on native species.

Cavity Nesters Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, **online reservations** at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions) Tell the wonderful story of life in dead trees! Students will explore the adaptations and life cycles of native birds that use dead trees for food and shelter.



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Trunk includes puppets, activity pages, preserved bird specimens, real cavity nests and much, much more! Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12.

Hummingbird Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, **online reservations** at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions.) Did you know a hummingbird only weighs as much as a penny? Learn all about this lightweight of the bird world with the Hummingbird Trunk! Trunk includes a 30 minute narrative with visual aids, puppets and puppet show scripts, specimens, research units on our native hummingbirds and a “humdinger” of a resource notebook. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12.

Owls – (Grades K-5) - free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, **online reservations** at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions.) Includes owl specimens, dissected pellets, tools to dissect your own pellets (you’ll need to supply the pellets themselves), a bird costume, funnels to demonstrate asymmetrical hearing, books and a teacher guide with lesson plan ideas.

Riparian Wetlands: Birds and the River - (Grades 4-12) – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, **online reservations** at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions.) Originally developed in partnership with Flathead Audubon and the Flathead Conservation District for educating on the importance of wetland and riparian areas. Updated in 2016 to concentrate on Flathead river bottom geography, hydrology, and importance for wildlife and bird habitat. Trunk contains a variety a developed unit of hands-on activities and field trips that are correlated to National Science Education Standards for K-12.

Snowy Owls Who Are They? Book and Trunk – (Elementary to Middle school) - free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, **online reservations** at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions.) Audubon and the Owl Research Institute joined together to develop this trunk based on the book written by Ansley Watson Ford and Denver Holt.

Songbird Kit – (Grades K-8) – free from Glacier National Park (register online <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) This dynamic trunk has activities geared for the classroom as well as outdoors relating to songbirds and migration. Resource materials, activities, videos, a felt storyboard, posters, recorded bird songs, and puppets all help students learn more about the natural history of several Montana songbirds.





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Climate Change

Climate Change Trunk – (Grades 6-8) – *free from Glacier National Park (register online <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>)* A complete set of materials to conduct the 2-week unit from Facing the Future: “Climate Change: Connections and Solutions.” Videos, web links, books, and hands-on interactive games help students understand the basics behind the science of climate change as well as the social and economic implications.

Repeat Photography Trunk – (Grades 6-8) – *free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>)*. The trunk combines photography with precipitation measurement lessons to teach students about Earth's water and energy cycles and the importance of mountain ice. Images included in this exhibit represent a sampling of the US Geological Survey's (USGS) Repeat Photography Project in Glacier, which conveys how much the glaciers have melted, indicating a warming climate.

Fire & Fire Ecology

FireWorks – (Grades K-12) – *2 trunks locally: free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>); free from Flathead National Forest (call 406/758-5218; twenum@fs.fed.us);* Interactive, hands-on material to study the forces that cause change in forests, particularly wildland fire. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools to help students learn about fire ecology in three kinds of forests found in the northern Rocky Mountains. Curriculum linked to national educational standards. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following web site: <https://www.frames.gov/partner-sites/fireworks/fireworks-home/>



Forestry

From the Tree 2 You! – *developed by Women in Timber (Contact: Holly McKenzie, 406-892-4141, glynholly@gmail.com)* Collection of reference materials, suggested activities and hands-on tools for learning about forests, forest products and tree species.

History

Land of Many Stories – (Grade 4) - *free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>)* Trunk was created by the Montana Historical Society as part of Glacier's Centennial Commemoration. It is geared toward 4th grade but many of the lessons can be used for higher grades. Topics include Montana's Indian Tribes, the railroad and building of the park chalets, early tourism and marketing, how artists influenced information and knowledge about the park, and careers and jobs that people have had in Glacier.



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There are two copies of the trunk. One is available from West Glacier and the other is available from the Montana Historical Society in Helena. The lessons for the trunk are on-line at the museum's website at <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/footlocker/default.asp>.

Meet the Conrads – (Grades 2-6) - free from Conrad Mansion (Contact Conrad Mansion Museum at 755-2166, info@conradmansion.com) The Conrad Mansion Museum has created this traveling trunk for teachers to bring into the classroom to either enhance a planned field trip to the Mansion or to give dimension to an existing lesson. The trunk is filled with primary artifacts (real when possible, reproductions when necessary). These artifacts include clothing, writing tools, kitchen utensils, photos and maps. The trunk includes a teacher's guide to help you direct activities and bring depth to the materials in the trunk. The trunk is designed to be self-contained and is meant for students in 2nd grade. It can, however, be adapted for use by older students and adults.

Traditional Native Games Trunk – (Grades K-10) - free from Glacier National Park (register online <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) The traditional games trunk combines fun and engaging games with the rich cultural background of the tribes that first developed them. The trunk contains the necessary equipment to play the different games, including at least one game from each of the tribes in Montana, as well as detailed instructions on how each game is played, background information, lesson plans, and the cultural significance of each game. The lesson plans were created by the Montana Office of Public Instruction in collaboration with the International Traditional Games Society.

Plants

Glacier's Plant Invaders – (Grades 3-12) - free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>). Materials in this trunk were put together for upper elementary school field trips to learn about science and one way to collect data on non-native, invasive plants in Glacier National Park. They have been expanded to now include lesson plans for middle and high schoolers. Students learn about 4 species – Spotted knapweed, St. Johnswort, Houndstongue, and Oxeye daisies. There are sample data sheets, identification guides, a power point, and background information about doing science and why these plants are not wanted here.

Snow and Winter Safety

Snow Safety Tool Kit – (Grades 5-12) – free from Flathead Natl. Forest/Flathead Avalanche Center (call 406/758-5218; twenum@fs.fed.us) - This trunk focuses on snow safety and winter preparedness. With full snow science study kits, avalanche rescue gear and a library of books and web based content this trunk is a perfect introduction to the study of snow and avalanche safety.
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/flathead/learning>;
<http://www.flatheadavalanche.org/education>





Water

Becoming Watershed Citizens- (Grades K-12) – *free from Flathead Lakers, (Contact Hilary Devlin, hilary@flatheadlakers.org)* The Flathead Lakers developed Becoming Watershed Citizens, a watershed education program for elementary students to increase their understanding of the physical, biological, historical and social components of the Flathead Watershed and their interconnections. The program includes classroom lessons and activities and is best when paired with a field trip to the Flathead Biological Station. The Flathead Watershed trunk contains maps and information unique to the Flathead Watershed. These materials include a teacher’s addition with discussion prompts, a large hand-painted floor map, wooden character figures and mounted photographs used as props for telling the Wild River Journey: Clark Fork – Pend Oreille Watershed Story.



Rolling Rivers Trailer – (Grades 4-8) – *free from Flathead County Conservation District (406/752-4220; hailey@flatheadcd.org)* Several types of river systems can be modeled using this large sandbox, plastic houses, vegetation, and, of course, water! Through this interactive display students learn how waterways and citizens can coexist. A certified trainer will accompany the trailer and lead the activity.

Riparian Wetlands: Birds and the River (1) - (Grades 4-8) – *free from the Flathead Conservation District (406-752-4220; hailey@flatheadcd.org)* Developed in partnership with Flathead Audubon and the Flathead Conservation District for educating on the importance of wetland and riparian areas for protecting or improving water quality from nonpoint source pollution, and their importance for wildlife and habitat. Trunk contains a variety of hands-on activities that

are correlated to National Science Education Standards for K-12; includes a developed unit of study, with recommended activities.

Riparian Wetlands: Birds and the River (2) - (Grades 4 -12) – *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter, online reservations at <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/lifelonglearning/educational-trunks/> (Contact Lone Pine State Park at 406/752-8293 for pick-up or auduboneducator@gmail.com for questions.)* Originally developed in partnership with Flathead Audubon and the Flathead Conservation District for educating on the importance of wetland and riparian areas. Updated in 2016 to concentrate on Flathead River bottom geography, hydrology, and importance for wildlife and bird habitat. Trunk contains a variety a developed unit of hands-on activities and field trips that are correlated to National Science Education Standards for K-12.

Wildlife

Amphibian and Reptile Trunk – (Grades K-6) – *free from Flathead National Forest (406/758-5218; twenum@fs.fed.us)* – Check out this trunk to discover what makes amphibians and reptiles so special. Videos, books, resource guides and a notebook full of suggested classroom activities make learning about the adaptations, conservation, and identification of Montana species fun! Trunk includes six junior size nets. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/flathead/learning>



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Aquatic Box, Cat Box, Elk Box, Furbearer Box, Wolf Box, Bear Box, Big Game Box, Goat Box & Bird Box – free from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (call the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Kalispell Office 406/752-5501) – Nine trunks circulate locally and contain skulls, pelts, brochures, books and other materials. For a list of wildlife trunks offered state-wide, visit: <http://fwp.mt.gov/education/teachers/>

Bat Box – (Grades K-6) – free from Flathead National Forest (406/758-5218 or twenum@fs.fed.us) “Sleep all Day, Play all Night. What kids wouldn’t like bats?” --poster in the trunk. Trunk contains bat puppets, books, posters and lots more to explore the life and history of bats.

Bear Trunk – (Grades K-12) – free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) Background material, research guides, and props to facilitate discussions about bears of the world, their habitats, and food sources. Emphasis is on black and grizzly bears including how to tell them apart and how to hike/camp safely in bear country. Activity guide and sample lesson plan included. With additional materials available on the web, upper grades can benefit from information regarding scientific method and results of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem DNA research study to determine population size as well as information about listing of the grizzly bear as an endangered species.

Loon Trunk – (Grades pre-K-12) – free from Montana Loon Society (or call 406/758-5218; twenum@fs.fed.us) – Meet “Lottie” the Loon, who plays a true loon wail, learn how to identify a loon by dressing up a student, participate in games to learn how pollution is harmful to loons through the process of bioaccumulation; examine topographic maps to determine what lakes would make a good territory for a pair of nesting loons. This box contains a wealth of fun, hands-on items including a loon egg replica, puppets, scripts, videos, posters and much more to learn about Montana loons. A three-ring notebook is full of lesson and activity ideas. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/flathead/learning>

Mosquito Trunk – (Elementary to adult) -- free from Flathead County Mosquito District (Jake Rubow, 406/751-8140; jrubow@flathead.mt.gov) — Want to learn about mosquitos and how Flathead County controls the flying arthropods? Check out the mosquito trunk. The box contains puppets and a costume that display the different stages of the mosquito life cycle. A fun play, and webbing activity allow an entire class to explore mosquitoes’ roles in the larger ecosystem. For further investigation, the trunk contains the “Bugopoly” board game, informational PowerPoint slide shows, a jeopardy game on PowerPoint, a word search, a sample dipping cup, and several copies of the book, The Summer the Town Bit Back. Teachers and students can explore the trunk on their own, or can schedule a presentation from mosquito control personnel and a professional naturalist and educator.





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Skulls Kit – (Grades 3-12) --- Free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) Are you interested in animal predator/prey relationships? Maybe you are even interested in learning about the differences between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores through their teeth. Check out this trunk if you or your class are interested in learning more about the identification of several animals through looking at their bone structure. This trunk comes with several excellent lesson plans for all ages, however, it is best suited for 3rd-12th graders.

Wolf Trunk – (Grades K-12) – free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm> and free from Flathead National Forest (call 406/758-5218; twenum@fs.fed.us) Includes pelts, skulls, tapes of wolf howls, videos, track casts and activity guide. Great for learning about predator/prey relationships and food chains. Includes background materials for older students to debate controversial management strategies.



Other educational trunks may be obtained (often for a fee plus shipping) from organizations outside the Flathead Valley. See these websites for more information:

Museum of the Rockies, Lending Library Outreach Kits – (Grades K-5) – \$25 plus shipping. Reserve online, call with questions, 406/994-5257. Several trunks available within the following themes, Astronomy, Paleontology, Indian Ed for All, and Yellowstone. <https://www.museumoftherockies.org/education/schools-educators/classroom-resources/>

Montana Historical Society – (Grades K-8) – 20 hands-on history footlockers! To order, complete an on-line reservation form. Call the Society's Education Office for information, 406/444-9553; book early; Footlockers contain reproduction artifacts, photographs, cassette tapes or videos, clothing, and tools related to the topic. User Guides contain: historical narratives; a bibliography; compliance with Montana Standards for Social Studies; and lessons. <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/Footlocker>

Montana Natural History Center, Nature Discovery Traveling Trunks (Missoula.) – Over 20 available trunks! Trunks can be rented for up to three weeks for \$45. (one week, \$25; two weeks, \$35) Reserve trunks online <http://www.montanaturalist.org/teacher-resources/traveling-trunks/>.