IDNR Field Trip Packs and Trunks available for loan at the Evanston Ecology Center

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Education has field packs and resource trunks available for loan to educators. Field packs contain hands-on equipment and reference material to encourage nature exploration. Resource trunks are large plastic containers filled with supplemental items to enhance lessons. Learning correlations are provided.

The Evanston Ecology Center has 7 packs and trunks available for loan for free to educators. Bins may be loaned for up to two weeks by picking them up and signing them out of the Ecology Center Monday-Friday from 8:30a-5pm.

For questions about the program and bin availability, please call 847-448-8256.

Trunks and Packs Available at the Evanston Ecology Center:

- Aquatic Illinois
- Field Trip Pack
- Illinois Amphibians and Reptiles Field Pack
- Illinois Insects and Spiders
- Illinois Invasive Species
- Illinois Trees
- Illinois Wild Mammals
Aquatic Illinois resources trunk

The Aquatic Illinois Trunk includes many items to help you teach about the biological, historical, chemical and other aspects of water. Books, posters, water-sampling tools, CD-ROMs, videos, DVDs and activities are among the contents of this trunk. For a listing of lending locations, visit http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education. Suggested grades: 5 – 9. Correlations to Illinois and national learning standards are included.
Field Trip Pack

The Field Trip Pack includes materials to encourage nature exploration by early childhood students and their teacher. Magnifying glasses, binoculars, a compass, field guides, sampling equipment, field trip tips and suggested activities are just some of the pack components. For a listing of lending locations, visit http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education. Suggested grades: PreK – 3.
Illinois’ Amphibians and Reptiles Field Pack

Amphibians and reptiles are fascinating creatures! The Illinois’ Amphibians and Reptiles Field Pack can help you learn about and observe these animals in their natural environment. It is a great resource for teachers, homeschooling educators, scout and youth group leaders, day care center staff and families. Binoculars, magnifying glasses, field guides, observation equipment, a headlamp, frog call recordings, field trip tips and many other hands-on items are included in the pack. For a listing of lending locations, visit http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education. Suggested grades: K-10.
Illinois Insects & Spiders resources trunk

Want to get your students interested in the creepy, crawly things that inhabit Illinois? The Illinois Insects and Spiders Trunk contains field guides, books, lessons, activities, CD-ROMs, videos, DVDs, insect models and equipment for “bug hunting!” The activity Crime-Solving Insects shows how insects can be used in forensic science. This trunk is a great addition to your lesson plans. For a listing of lending locations near you, visit our Web site at http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education. Suggested grades: PreK – 6 but can be modified for other grade levels. Correlations to Illinois and national learning standards are included.
Illinois' Invasive Species resources trunk

With this resources trunk, you and your students can learn why invasive species are detrimental, how they arrived in Illinois and what actions can be taken to control them. Field guides, lessons, books, DVDs, specimens, replicas and other items are included. For a listing of lending locations, visit http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education. Suggested grades: 7 - 12. Correlations to Illinois and national learning standards are included.
The **Illinois Trees Trunk** includes many items to help you teach about trees, forests and forestry careers. Books, posters, forestry tools, tree "cookies," real leaves, CD-ROMs, tree seeds, videos and DVDs, lumber samples and activities are among the tree-related contents of this trunk. For a listing of lending locations, visit http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education. Suggested grades: PreK – 10. Correlations to Illinois and national learning standards are included.
Illinois Wild Mammals
resources trunk

Are you teaching about mammals? Then borrow the Illinois Wild Mammals Trunk! Field guides, furs, skulls, rubber tracks, rubber scat, lessons, CD-ROMs and other items are included for your use. For a listing of lending locations near you, visit our Web site at http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education.

Suggested grades: PreK – 8 but can be modified for other grade levels. Correlations to Illinois and national learning standards are included.