



Missouri Department of Conservation
Discover Nature Schools Kit Loan Agreement
Discover Nature Schools
Kindergarten
2024-2025

GRANT GUIDELINES—These guidelines are specific to the *DNS Kindergarten: Bears Through the Seasons* program. You must contact your local [Conservation Educator](#) to receive certification training. Access the kit loan agreement or transportation reimbursement application [here](#) once certified.

PURPOSE OF LOAN AGREEMENT: DNS TEACHER KIT LOAN

The purpose of the Discover Nature Schools (DNS) program is to promote conservation education through instructional units that meet Missouri Learning Science Standards and encourage hands-on outdoor learning experiences. Each unit is designed to increase student understanding and appreciation of our natural resources and our role in conserving them. This DNS Teacher Kit Loan supports teachers using the DNS curriculum by providing needed equipment.

In an effort to assist as many teachers/schools as possible with funding towards implementing this curriculum (hereinafter referred to as DNS First Grade Curriculum):

1. Homeschool groups may receive training and curriculum but are not eligible for *DNS Teacher Kit* or funding for field experiences.
2. Schools in summer school sessions may receive funding for field experiences but are not eligible for *DNS Teacher Kit*.

LOAN AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Department agrees to provide *DNS Kindergarten* curriculum (including teacher and student guides) and training to Recipient and its participating teachers, and to loan Recipient DNS Teacher Kit(s), the quantity of which will be determined by the Department, consisting of equipment listed on Attachment A, for a three year period beginning with the last date of Department signatures and ending May 30 of the third year. In consideration of this loan, Recipient agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Recipient's participating teachers will participate in the Department's training for the *DNS Kindergarten Curriculum*.
2. Recipient will ensure that the *DNS Kindergarten Curriculum* is taught to fifteen (15) or more students during the agreement period and that learning experiences that best meet the needs of Recipient's students are chosen. (Note: All Missouri Learning Science Standards listed in the DNS teacher guide would be met only if all activities are taught.)
3. Each participating teacher will submit an Annual Report and Evaluation to the Department by May 30 each year. The Department will provide the Annual Report and Evaluation form



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via email by April 15. If the Annual Report and Evaluation is not submitted by each participating teacher, then the Department may terminate this Agreement at its discretion.

4. Recipient will keep the loaned equipment in good working condition and conduct equipment maintenance as needed.
5. Upon expiration or termination of this agreement, Recipient will return all loaned equipment and will replace any lost, stolen, or missing items or cover the cost of replacement.
6. Recipient acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this loan agreement may result in termination of this agreement and/or denial of future loan agreement applications.

TERMINATION

Either party may terminate this agreement at any time, without penalty or recourse, by giving written notice at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the termination.

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS

Recipient agrees to assume all risks associated with the activities performed under this Agreement and agrees to hold harmless the Department, the Conservation Commission, and its agents and employees, from any claim or suit arising from, or in connection with, this Agreement and the activities performed under this Agreement.

FAILURE TO CONDUCT INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT

If, for any reason, the Recipient cannot complete the *DNS Kindergarten Curriculum* during any given school year, the Recipient must contact the local MDC Conservation Educator to discuss changes to this Agreement or voluntary termination.

OWNERSHIP

The Department will retain ownership of all equipment contained in the Loan Kit. The Recipient has use of the equipment during the term of the agreement. MDC reserves the rights to the copyright of all curriculum it produces and provides.



ATTACHMENT A – LOAN EQUIPMENT LIST

The following materials listed are the materials that are provided in your Discover Nature Schools Loan Kit for the *DNS Kindergarten Curriculum*. When you receive your box, check the contents of the kit to confirm each item has been received. If you are missing any item(s), please contact DNSchools@mdc.mo.gov.

- 1 black bear skull
- 1 swatch of black bear fur
- 1 black bear rubber scat mold
- 1 black bear claw
- 1 black bear hand puppet
- 1 pair black socks
- 1 pair white socks
- 4 thermometers
- 4 magnifying rulers
- 1 balance scale
- 1 digital thermometer

CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

- 1 package of black construction paper
- 1 package of black pom-poms
- 1 package of wiggly eyes
- 50 12-ounce cups
- 4 post-it note pads (yellow, blue, green, orange)

TRADE BOOKS

- Animals in Winter* by Jennifer Fretland VanVoorst
- Beneath the Sun* by Melissa Stewart
- Black Bears: My First Animal* by Jenna Lee Gleisner
- The Curious Cares of Bears* by Douglas Florian
- From Seed to Plant* by Gail Gibbons
- Hello Spring!* by Shelley Rotner
- Hello Summer!* by Shelley Rotner
- Hush Up and Hibernate* by Sandra Markle
- Little Acorn* by Melanie Joyce
- Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner
- Plants Can't Sit Still* by Rebecca Hirsch
- Sunshine Makes the Seasons* by Franklyn Branley
- Under the Snow* by Melissa Stewart
- What is Severe Weather?* by Jennifer Boothroyd

Note: Most books can be found through *Epic!*, a free online book database for classroom teachers.

If student guides and/or teacher guides are needed, please go to education.mdc.mo.gov and order your classroom materials through the MDC Teacher Portal.