



GRANT GUIDELINES - These guidelines are specific to the *Discover Nature Schools First Grade: Exploring Missouri* program. You must contact your local Conservation Educator to receive certification training or access the grant 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 First Grade* 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 June 15 of the third year. In consideration of this loan, Recipient agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. All participating teachers must have or Create an Account on the MDC Teacher Portal.
2. Participating teachers must complete the Department's 3-hour training on the DNS First Grade Curriculum. **New teachers requiring training should contact their local conservation educator for assistance.**
3. After meeting with your local Conservation Educator, and completing all required training, you will see certification on your Teacher Portal account. Example certification will show as:

as: MDC Certifications
MDC Training Completed
DNS Kindergarten

Date Trained
2024-04-17

Trained By
MaryBeth.Factor@mdc.mo.gov



Missouri Department of Conservation
Teacher Kit Loan Agreement
Discover Nature Schools
First Grade
2025-2026

4. Following the submission of this kit agreement from a newly certified school, the certified DNS First Grade teacher(s) will receive one teacher kit of all items listed in Attachment A - Loan Equipment List. You must be certified through DNS First Grade training to qualify for the kit. Kits are provided at a 1 teacher to 50 student ratio, so materials will need to be shared.
5. Recipient will ensure that the DNS First Grade 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.)
6. **Each participating teacher will submit an Annual Report and Evaluation to the Department by June 15 each year. The Department will provide the Annual Report and Evaluation form 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.
7. Recipient will keep the loaned equipment in good working condition and conduct equipment maintenance as needed.
8. 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.
9. 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 harmlessly 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 First Grade 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 curriculums 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 First Grade 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.

NON-CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

- 10 string backpacks
- 4 pair of binoculars
- 4 bug boxes
- 1 bird feeder
- 10 thermometers
- 1 digital thermometer
- 10 magnifying rulers
- 10 flashlights
- 1 string of holiday lights
- 4 tuning forks
- 1 inflatable globe
- 1 dog clicker
- 1 slinky
- 1 slotted spoon
- 1 100ft paracord
- 1 plastic collared lizard
- 2 plastic shoeboxes
- 1 pair chopsticks

- 1 pair pliers
- 1 staple remover
- 1 pair of tweezers
- 1 pipette
- 1 plastic fish
- 1 pink travel bottle
- 1 plastic duckweed
- 30 film cannisters

CONSUMABLE MATERIALS

- 1 package of cups
- 1 roll of string
- 1 package of construction paper
- 2 straws
- 10 cotton balls

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

- Are you ready for Winter?*
- The Dandelion Seed*

- National Geographic Weather*
- Paddle Perch Climb: Bird Feet are Neat*
- Peterson's Field Guide to Insects*
- Summer Sun Risin'*
- What If You Had Animal Ears!?*
- What If You Had Animal Eyes!?*
- What If You Had an Animal Nose!?*
- What is a Forecast?*
- MDC Natural Events Calendar*
- Feeding Backyard Birds*
- Show Me Trees Leaf ID Booklet*

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/resources and order your classroom materials through the MDC Teacher Portal.