



Gila Conservation Education Center

Discovery Trunk Classroom Presentation Request Form 2011-2012

**this form is available for download on our website: www.gcecnm.org under the Teacher
Resources tab*

The Gila Conservation Education Center (GCEC) is excited about the upcoming school year and looking forward to bringing science into your classroom! Through our Discovery Trunk Program trained volunteers will present Discovery Trunks in your classroom, giving students the opportunity to explore hands-on materials that reinforce existing classroom curricula. Discovery Trunk presentations last about one hour, are appropriate for elementary school classes (K-6), and address many NM Standards and Benchmarks. Teachers are also encouraged to borrow Discovery Trunks for a two-week period of time, allowing for an in-depth, teacher-guided exploration of the topic. Trunk descriptions can be found on the back of the request form, attached.

Through our partnership with the Gila National Forest, we are able to provide this resource to schools at no cost, however, we serve a geographically broad area and Discovery Trunk presentations are typically in high demand. If you would like to schedule a presentation or borrow a trunk, please fill out the attached form. Each classroom typically requests three presentations, but the actual number of presentations your classroom will receive will depend upon the number of requests we have, the number of volunteers available, and our respective schedules.

Please return the request form as soon as possible; scheduling is on a first come, first served basis. Volunteer presenters will contact teachers directly to set the date and time of the presentation. Teachers must be present at all times during the presentation, and two or more classes may be combined *only with prior approval from the Gila Conservation Education Center*.

Please mail, e-mail, or fax the completed form to: GCEC, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061, email: info@gcecnm.org, or fax: (575) 388-8204. If you have any questions, please call our office at (575)388-8266 or 388-8265, leave a message.

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Please return form to: GCEC 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061, Fax (575) 388-8204, or e-mail to: info@gcecnm.org

Teacher _____

School _____ Grade(s) _____ Student Count _____

School phone number _____ e-mail _____

The best way to contact you _____

Discovery Trunk (appropriate for K-6 unless noted)	Request trunk; no presenter	Request Presentation	Rank choices 1-3	Preferred month, day(s) of week and time
Animal skulls				
Archaeology				
Birds				
Fire Ecology				
Fire safety (k-3)				
Watersheds				
River Ecology				
Apex predators (wolves)				
Solar Energy				
Plants				

See reverse for trunk descriptions.

Discovery Trunks

All trunks include curriculum guide and lesson plans. If you are searching for a trunk you do not see listed below, please contact our office.

Animal skulls: Contrast and compare animal skulls. Explore omnivore, carnivore, and herbivore dentition and orbital placement. Great for animal classification; includes a student worksheet.

Archaeology: With this popular trunk, students explore New Mexico history and pre-settlement Mimbreno culture. What happened to the Mimbreno peoples? Why? Students work in groups to answer these questions. Students reconstruct broken pottery, use natural materials to make a clay vessel, and use flash cards to explore New Mexico's history. Excellent for 4th grade Social Studies Standards.

Birds: How is a bird different from a mammal or frog? Students examine feathers, eggs, bird skulls and nests. Trunk includes activities on bird adaptation, animal classification, nest building and migration.

Fire Ecology: Students examine the key role fire plays in the ecology of Southwestern ecosystems, with particular emphasis on the Gila National Forest. This trunk works to dispel the myth that all fires are bad and explores the role people play on influencing fire-dependent habitat.

Fire Safety: Children learn safe fire habits, how fire burns and fire prevention. A visit from Smokey Bear is available upon request. Most suitable for grades K-3.

Watersheds: Students learn about the water cycle, watersheds, water quality, point and non-point pollution and the impact of land use practices and personal actions on watersheds; particular focus on Silver City's "Big Ditch" and the history of San Vicente Creek. Meets 5th grade Life Science Standards.

River Ecology: With emphasis on the Gila and Mimbres Rivers. Examine the importance of floods in the ecology of riparian (river) systems and explore the way people interact with river systems. Includes a set of six role-playing costumes. Meets 4th and 5th grade Life Science Standards.

Apex Predators: With this popular trunk, students explore the important role predators play in maintaining the structure and function of ecosystems; with an emphasis on wolves. Students learn about wolf biology, behavior and food webs.

Solar energy: Through a partnership with the New Mexico Solar Energy Association, this presentation teaches students about the relationship between fossil fuels, plants and the sun. Students learn about active and passive solar systems and see a solar oven bake cookies. *Sorry, this trunk cannot be checked-out.*

Plants: Students learn the parts of a flower, the differences between flowering and non-flowering plants and the role wind, water, and animals play in plant dispersal. Numerous activities associated with this trunk, including plant presses to build a classroom herbarium. Meets many K-6 Standards/Benchmarks.