



**Critter Crates**  
**&**  
**More!**

The Outdoor Campus East  
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Email: [toc@state.sd.us](mailto:toc@state.sd.us).

### **Bat Crate**

Books; activities; an echo-locator; a bat skeleton and 2 bat skulls.

### **Beaver Crate**

Activities books; beaver pelts and pelts from other aquatic mammals; skulls; a chiseled tree piece and bark strips; a DVD of beavers building a dam. Includes the Eco-Beaver activity for dressing a volunteer in the many beaver adaptations, i.e., a paddle board for the tail, goggles for eye membranes, etc.

### **Binoculars Box**

Contains 12 pairs of binoculars with instructions for adjusting and maintenance; an activity using binoculars; information on bird shapes and several Stokes guides to bird identification.

### **Biodiversity Box**

Utilizing this crate and iNaturalist, help gather biodiversity data specific to South Dakota. Contains instructional sheet, field notebook, pencil, binoculars, and clip-on lens set for smartphones. This box was made possible through partnership with the South Dakota State Library.

### **Bird Box**

Activities, books and posters. Bird song identifiers; beaks, feet and feathers; 3 fragile bird skulls; owl and other raptor studies; a chick life cycle set, 3 turkey calls and pictures of common land and water birds.

### **Camera Crate**

10 Canon PowerShot SX 160 IS cameras; 2 tripods available; interface cables and a card reader; activity on photo composition; a nature photography example, and a Power Point instruction for beginner, intermediate and advanced nature photographers.

### **Coyote Crate**

Coyote activities; print materials; coyote and beaver pelts, skulls, scat and tracks; coyote track mold; coyote bands.

### **Discovery Bags A and B**

Pelts, skulls and track replicas of 10 common native species; photos of the animals in the bags; Bag B works well with the Track Sack below. We recommend a Discovery Bag for younger learners.

### **Endangered Species Crate**

Examples of products made from exotic species that were poached and seized by the federal government; photos of those animals; print materials on protected species and a copy of *The Wildlife Detectives* about the national wildlife forensics lab in Oregon; a black-footed ferret skull and pelt, one of the 10 most endangered species in North America; activity suggestions.

### **Fishing Crate**

Contains 10 rods and reels, tackle box and plastic Backyard Bass practice fish.

## **GPS Crates 1 and 2**

Each crate contains: 8 Garmin eTrex GPS units; an interface cable; a Quick Start Guide; laminated copies of simplified instructions; a Cash, Stash and Swap game to give learners early success; print materials on activities and the history of the GPS

## **Mammal Crates**

2 crates containing 20 pelts of common native species with corresponding natural and replica skulls, tracks and scat. Includes suggested activities, animal photos and print and resource materials.

## **Prairie Crate**

Puppets and play scripts; many prairie activity suggestions; books on prairie life; flannel boards of prairie plants and animals with text narration; pelts, pelt samples and skulls; photos of animals included and mentioned in the crate.

## **Prairie Grass Bag**

Several posters that show cross sections of soil, its colors and the root systems of prairie plants; photos of native prairie flowers; a roll-up of a leafy spurge root system; 24 laminated samples of prairie grasses; print material on noxious weeds.

## **Reptiles and Amphibians**

Crate contains reptile & amphibian card game, magnetic frog life cycle, take along guides, lizard and turtle skeleton, rattle snake skin & skull, rattle snake puppet, snapping turtle shell, reptile bingo game, snake science book, life cycle frog book, I Don't Want to be a Frog" picture book, Professor Noggin's Reptiles Card Game, Frog craft and Dress a Frog activity.

## **Snowshoe Crates**

2 Group Crates containing 15 to 20 pairs of snowshoes in youth, medium and adult sizes; 3 Family Crates containing 7 pairs of youth and adult sizes. Crates may be used when the snow cover is at least 3 inches deep. Group crates are very large and will not fit in compact cars.

## **Track Sack**

Contains track molds for the 11 animals in Discovery Bag B to be used with Model Magic or Plaster of Paris; 11 large track stamps of the native species in the bag; 18 small track stamps of 5 native and 13 exotic animals; 16 rubbing plates of animal tracks; activity suggestions.

## **Tree Trunk**

Activities from Project Learning Tree; Mystery Tree Challenge with 14 dichotomous keys to learn to identify trees; books, field guides and tree cookies; What Leaf Is This? activity and a video from Eyewitness Explorers.

## **Wetlands Trunk**

Activity guides; activity suggestions and prepared activities, including Peek at a Pond, Wetland Food Web and Wetland Metaphors; puppets and scripts; 3 different puzzles for 3 different age groups.

## THE OUTDOOR CAMPUS CRITTER CRATE USE POLICY

For information on crates, go to <https://gfp.sd.gov/critter-crates>

### CRITTER CRATES AND ACTIVITY CRATES

___ Bat Crate	___ Fishing Crate
___ Beaver Crate	___ Grasslands Bag
___ Binoculars Box	___ Land Navigation (GPS) Crates I & II
___ Biodiversity Box	___ Mammal Crates A & B (similar contents)
___ Bird Box	___ Prairie Crate
___ Camera Crate	___ Reptile and Amphibian Crate
___ Coyote Crate	___ Track Sack
___ Discovery Bag A & B	___ Tree Trunk
___ Endangered Species Crate	___ Wetlands Trunk

- ❖ Requires signature on a waiver prior to pick up at The Outdoor Campus.
- ❖ Reserve early. Spring and fall months are heavily booked.
- ❖ Any GFP employee can use a crate without signing the waiver.

### SNOWSHOE CRATES

(Must have 3 inches of snow on the ground before release)

**2 Group Crates of 16 pairs each    3 Family Crates of 7 pairs each**

- ❖ Must be picked up.
- ❖ Can be reserved by any adult for a period of one week
- ❖ TOC requires signature on a waiver before the crate will be released

If you would like to see the inventory sheet for any of the crates listed above, call 362-2777 or email [toc@state.sd.us](mailto:toc@state.sd.us). They will be glad to send what you need or to answer any questions about Critter Crate contents or use.