



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4223

Dear Educator,

Struggle & Opportunity: A California Cultural Journey

3rd through 5th Grade Teacher-led Traveling Trunk Program

Traveling Trunks (2) are available to schools in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

The trunks are a cooperative program developed by the National Park Service and the Los Angeles Urban Systemic Initiative Program for use by teachers in the classroom.

This cultural heritage program explores some of the diverse cultures of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and surrounding Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Students will learn the concept and definition of culture, and how the Chumash and Gabrielino/Tongva Native peoples were impacted by the Spanish/Mexican settlers. Period reproduction artifacts, many exciting activities, lesson plans, reference materials and curriculum guides are included, with instructions for each activity.

Teachers using the *Oh California* curriculum will find that these trunks enhance their program. You do not need any specialized training to enjoy the trunks and their activities. This program is designed to enrich the social studies of third, fourth, and fifth graders and fulfills California Standard 4.2 requirements.

How do you get the trunks to your school?

Teachers in Los Angeles County: Traveling Trunks (2) are available to schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District through the Van Nuys Science Material Center, 6625 Balboa Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91406. Call or e-mail Lynne Bernstein (lynne.bernstein@lausd.net), Betty Hersh, Nancy Bentov (nancy.bentov@lausd.net), or Robert Sosa (Robert.sosa@lausd.net) at (818) 997-2599 to make reservations and schedule a time to pick-up the **two** trunks.

Teachers in Ventura County: can make reservations for the traveling trunks through Santa Monica Mountains NRA by calling Mike Seacord at 805-370-2348 or e-mail at michael_seacord@nps.gov.

Trunks can be kept for 3 to 4 weeks depending on the number of classes using them. We ask that 3 different grade levels (3, 4, & 5) cooperate in using the trunks. The trunks are the responsibility of the teacher that has signed for them.

When the Traveling Trunks are checked out for your school and before you take possession, a checklist is used to verify contents. Although there is no user fee, each school is responsible for any items damaged or missing from the trunks. Your school is not responsible for normal wear and tear. We hope that you will enjoy using the Traveling Trunks.

Sincerely,
National Park Rangers
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area