



Janise Manchester sews a small cotton coat for a doll that will end up in a Lewis and Clark educational trunk. She has made a set of three dolls for each of the five trunks being used for learning tools.



Putting the trunks together

"We're interested in history, so we want kids to learn more about it," said Janise Manchester, who coordinates a Manitou Bluffs Lewis and Clark educational trunk.

"If we do not learn from history, we're doomed to make the same mistakes."

And "there's a lot of stuff you can put into a trunk, that schools don't have the budget for," said Robin Grumm, who coordinates the Runge Nature Center trunk.

Most teachers wish they had more than the two weeks to use the trunk, she said.

Grumm said she would like to see organizations develop other themed trunks for temporary classroom use.

One of the four Manitou Bluffs trunks has visited more than 20 schools and two festivals since January 2003, putting its contents in the hands of more than 2,000 students, Manchester said.

"We really want as authentic as possible," said Stephen Stark, trunk contributor.

"Kids will really like this."

- Michelle Reagan