



Leader's guide and member's handout



“A Journey through Kansas”

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2026 Kansas FCE Education Program Year

Educational Goals:

- ✓ Learn about New Attractions and Individuals from the different Kansas Areas
- ✓ Educate others about Kansas Attractions and Individuals

Community Activities

- ✓ Present the lesson to another group
- ✓ Set up a road trip to study different Attractions in Kansas—churches, murals, colleges, barn quilts, museums, zoos, national parks, cafes, scenic byways, historic byways, governors, waterfalls, breweries, movies filmed in Kansas
- ✓ A goal for each member is to expand on an Attraction or Individual information

Kansas is in the Midwest Region of the United States. It is named after the Kansas River, which, in turn, is named after the Kansa people. Caddoan Wichita Indians occupied Kansas, and later, Siouan Kaw people lived in villages along river valleys in the eastern part of the state. Tribes in the western part of the state were semi-nomadic and hunted large herds of bison. A Spaniard named Francisco Vazquez de Coronado explored Kansas in 1541. Kansas was admitted to the Union on January 29, 1861.

A Journey through Northeast Kansas with attractions and individuals—

The Northeast Area has 127 Kansas FCE Members and 10 Units. The Northeast area says follow the smoke, and you'll find the fire. (Let's hope not)

ATTRACTIONS:

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm is in Olathe, in Johnson County. They started serving people in 1858, and stagecoaches stopped in 1864. For 5 years, coach passengers and other travelers were fed in the basement of the new stone farmhouse. **Beecher Bible and Rifle Church** is in Wabaunsee, Wabaunsee County. The church was situated on 1 acre and was built in 1862 out of limestone. Henry Ward Beecher was a financial backer who helped smuggle rifles past pro-slavery forces in crates marked Bibles. The rifles came to be known as "Beecher's Bibles". **St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church** is located in Lawrence, in Douglas County. The church was built in 1910 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The church is a one-story building with two crenelated towers in which are 34 feet and 26 feet tall. The **Wizard of Oz Museum** is in Wamego, in Riley County. "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and other songs came from that movie. The movie remains one of the most loved of the 1930s. The **Brown v. Board of Education Museum** is in Topeka, in Shawnee County. The landmark decision of the US Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. state laws that established racial segregation in public schools are unconstitutional. The case began in 1951 in Topeka when a daughter of a local black resident, Oliver Brown, wanted to go to the closest school near their home. 12 families filed the lawsuit. Hiawatha, in Brown County, is the home of the **Davis Memorial**, which was built in 1930 when John Davis built a memorial for his wife. The cost was over \$100,000. **Twine** twisted into the largest ball is in Cawker City, in Mitchell County. The ball is 8.06 feet by 10.83 feet and weighs 17,886 pounds. It started with 1.6 million feet of twine.

INDIVIDUALS:

Erin Brockovich (1960) was born in Lawrence, Douglas County. Erin was a paralegal, consumer advocate, and environmental activist. She was instrumental in building a case against Pacific Gas & Electric Co (a fire at the largest lithium-ion battery storage—safety issues). It was a successful lawsuit and then the subject of a film, "Erin Brockovich" (2000). **Abby Lillian Marlatt** (1869-1943) was born in Manhattan, Riley County. Graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Home Economics. At the University of Wisconsin, she was the first Director of the Home Economics department. **Alf Landon** (1987-1997) was an American oilman and politician. As a member of the Republican Party, Alf served as the 26th Governor of Kansas. He ran in the

1936 presidential election and was defeated. He was the first presidential candidate to live to 100 until Jimmy Carter. Alf was born in Pennsylvania. He graduated from KU in Lawrence, in Douglas County. **Amelia Earhart** (1897-1939) was an American Aviation pioneer. She disappeared over the Pacific Ocean on July 2, 1937, while trying to become the first female pilot to circle the globe. She was born in Atchison, in Atchison County. **Charles Curtis** (1860-1936) was born in Topeka, in Shawnee County. Charles served as the 31st Vice President of the United States. **Frank Carlson** (1893-1987) was born near Concordia, in Cloud County. Frank served as a United States Senator in the 1950s and was the 30th Governor of Kansas. **James Reynolds** (1946) is an American Actor from Oskaloosa, in Jefferson County. James was Abe Carver on "Days of Our Lives". **Joan Finney** (1925-2001) was an American politician. She served as the 42nd Governor of Kansas. She was born in Topeka, in Shawnee County. She served on the staff of Republican U.S. Senator Frank Carlson. **John Anderson Jr.** (1917-2014) served as the 36th governor of Kansas and the attorney general of Kansas in 1956. John was born in Olathe, in Johnson County. **John Riggins** (1949) was born in Seneca, in Nemaha County. John was a professional football player. **Karl Menninger** (1893-1990) was born in Topeka, in Shawnee County. Attended Harvard Medical School and graduated cum laude in 1917. Founded the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, in Shawnee County, with his father. The Menninger Foundation started in 1941 and was the largest psychiatric training center in the world. **Lon Kruger** (1952) was born in Silver Lake, in Shawnee County. Lon was a professional basketball player and coach. Lon was the first coach to lead 5 schools to the NCAA Tournament. **Mark Turgeon** (1965) is an American College basketball coach who was born in Topeka, Kansas. Served as head coach or assistant at five different universities and played at KU. **Maurice Greene** (1974) is an American former track and field sprinter. Maurice was born in Kansas City, in Wyandotte County. Maurice won 4 Olympic medals and was a 5-time World Champion. **Minnie Evans** (1888-1971) was born in Mayetta, in Jackson County. (Potawatomi name: Ke-waht-no-quah Wish-Ken-O). She was the tribal chair of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation. She attended Haskell Institute in Lawrence, in Douglas County, where she learned to speak English and write. **Nancy Kassebaum** (1932) has served as a member of the United States Senate. Nancy served as chair of the Senate Subcommittee on African Affairs. Nancy was born in Topeka, in Shawnee County. Her father was Alf Landon. **Phog Allen** (1885-1974) is the "Father of Basketball Coaching." He was the head basketball coach of Baker University (1905-1908) and KU, and several other colleges. **Walter Chrysler** (1875-1940) was an American industrial pioneer in the car industry. He was the founder and namesake of American Chrysler Corporation. Walter was born in Wamego, in Riley County, and grew up in Ellis County. **Georgia Neese Clark Gray** (1898-1995) served as the 29th Treasurer of the United States. She was the first woman to hold this office. She was born in Richland, in Douglas County. Georgia majored in economics at Washburn University in Topeka, in Shawnee County. Georgia had a 10-year acting career. Later, she was president of the Richland State Bank. She was an early supporter of Harry S. Truman, and that support earned her the nomination for US Treasurer. **Lorraine Elizabeth Wooster** (1868-1953) was the first woman to hold a statewide elected office in Kansas and served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction. She was born in Ohio and moved to Mitchell County. Started her teaching

career in a one-room schoolhouse when she was 16. **Pat Roberts** (1936) is a politician and journalist. Pat was born in Topeka, Shawnee County. Attended K-State University and was a First Lieutenant in the Marines. Worked as a newspaper reporter before entering politics. Served as a U.S. Senator. **Laura Kelly** (1950) is our 48th Governor of Kansas. She represents the Democratic Party. Laura was born in New York City. Laura was endorsed by several Republicans in her first bid for governor.



Andrew H. Reeder (1807-1864) served as the 1st Territorial Governor of Kansas (1 of 6 Territorial Governors). He was appointed by President Franklin Pierce, then was fired for not turning Kansas into a slave state. Daniel Woodson then served as acting territorial governor. Andrew was in the Democratic Party and later changed to the Republican Party.

A Journey through Northwest Kansas with attractions and individuals—

The Northwest Area has 73 KAFCE members and 9 units in 2025. The Northwest says let your journey guide you here, the place that's perfect "For the Curious."

ATTRACTIONS:

Wilcox School is located in WaKeeney, in Trego County. It is one of only a few remaining rural schoolhouses in Trego County. The school was built in 1886 with native limestone. The limestone was quarried a half mile from the school site. The school was used to make mattresses during WWII. The school closed in 1947. A **Green Grasshopper** was made by Lloyd Harden out of old tractor and implement parts. The display is located near Goodland, in Sherman County. **Garden of Isis** has five rooms of Mri-Pilar's bizarre art made from doll bodies, toys, kitchen utensils, and other recycled materials. It is a perfect site for Halloween night tours. The **Garden of Eden** is located in Lucas, Russell County. The house has 150 sculptures and includes Biblical scenes like Cain murdering Abel. Pioneer Park in Goodland, in Sherman County, is the place for the "**World's Largest Painting on an Easel**". The painting is 24 x 32 feet and a reproduction of a Vincent Van Gogh painting. The home where the song "**Home on the Range**" was written is in Athol, Smith County. Dr. Brewster Higley wrote the poem "My Western Home to describe the beauty of the site he settled on in 1871. Dan Kelley set the poem to music. Collyer's "**Water Tower**" is in Collyer, in Trego County. It is made of wood and brick. **Cooper Barn** is the largest barn in Kansas. The barn is in Colby, in Thomas County, and has been named one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture. The barn is 66 feet wide, 114 feet long, and 48 feet high. **Barbed Wire Buffalo** is in front of the Ft Wallace Museum in Wallace, in Wallace County. A "Do Not Climb" sign is not needed on this piece of art.

INDIVIDUALS:

Mike Hayden (1944) was the 41st Governor of Kansas. Mike was born in Colby, in Thomas County. Mike attended K-State and Fort Hays State Universities. **Ronald Evans** (1933-1990) was an astronaut. Ronald was born in St. Francis, in Cheyenne County. He was one of 24 astronauts who flew to the moon. **Jerry Moran** (1954) is an American lawyer and politician. Jerry served as a senior U.S. Senator. Jerry was raised in Plainville, in Rooks County. **Elmer Dresslar Jr.** (1925-2005) was a voice actor and vocalist. He is best known for the voice in the Jolly Green Giant commercials. Elmer was born in St. Francis, in Cheyenne County. **Bob Dole** (1923-2021) was a politician and attorney. He held many other positions in Washington, D.C. Bob ran for US President and US Vice President and was the only man to run for both offices and lose. Bob was born and raised in Russell, in Russell County. **Wild Bill Hickok** (1876-1937) was born in Illinois and buried in Dakota Territory. Death was due to a gunshot wound. He worked as a stagecoach driver and lawman in Kansas and Nebraska. **Russell Stover** was a candy maker and sold Eskimo Pies. Born in a sod house in Alton, in Osborn County. He sold one company and started another, "Russell Stover Candies". When he died in 1954, the company sold about 5,500 tons of candy a year.

A Journey through South Central Kansas with Attractions and Individuals

South Central Area has 58 KAFCE Members and 7 Units. South Central says we balance the quiet prairie with creative cultural arts.

ATTRACTIONS:

The Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library is in Abilene, in Dickinson County. A quote from Dwight: "I come from the very heart of America." Dwight's boyhood Home is on the Museum grounds. **White Castle Hamburgers** was started in 1921 by Billy Ingram in Wichita, Sedgwick County. The square hamburgers were 5 cents and were called Sliders. They were easy to eat. Oxford, in Sumner County, is the home of the **Old Mill**. It has been a favorite place to visit through the years. A working mill a long time ago, and recently a fun place to dine or just browse. At present, it is not being used. **The World's Largest Czech egg** is on display in Wilson, in Ellsworth County. and was created in 2003. The Egg stands 20 feet high and 15 feet wide and is decorated with a traditional Czech design. **Tallgrass Prairie Preserve** is located outside of Council Grove, in Morris County. There are 11,000 acres with wide open space, beautiful vistas, wildflowers, wildlife, a bison herd, a historic ranch, and a one-room school with limestone buildings. Their motto is "Tall in the Fall," which takes all seasons for the tall grasses to reach their maximum height. See the buffalo. **Castle Rock & Monument Rocks**, which are near Oakley & Quinter, in Gove County. These rocks prove that Kansas is not FLAT. There are two sets of striking rock formations. It is one of the "8 Wonders of Kansas." Only dirt roads lead you to the ROCKS. **Rock City** is outside of Minneapolis, Ottawa County, on five

acres. Rock City is a magnificent example of 200 sandstone concretions that were formed over a million years when an inland sea covered Kansas.

INDIVIDUALS:

Dwight Eisenhower(1890-1969), born in Denison, Texas, was the 34th President of the United States. **Barry Sanders** (1968) was born in Wichita, Sedgwick County. Barry played football. **Dan Carney** (1931) and **Frank Carney** (1938-2020) were founders of **Pizza Hut** in Wichita, in Sedgwick County. **David Green** (1941) was born in Emporia, Lyon County. David is the founder of **Hobby Lobby**. Dean Smith (1931-2015), KU basketball coach, was born in Emporia, Lyon County. **Dennis Rader**(BTK) (1945) was born in Pittsburg, in Crawford County. Dennis was a serial killer in Wichita, Sedgwick County. **George Washington Carver** (1864-1943) was born in Minneapolis, in Ottawa County, and was a botanist and chemist. **Aneta Corsaut** (Helen Crump) (1933-1995) was born in Hutchinson, in Reno County. Aneta was the girlfriend of Sheriff Andy Taylor on the Andy Griffith Show. **Jim Ryun** (1947) was an athlete and politician. Jim earned a silver medal for his track in the Olympics. Jim is from Wichita, in Sedgwick County. **Lynette Woodard** (1959) was a coach and the 1st woman in the Harlem Globetrotters. She is from Wichita, in Sedgwick County. **Stan Kenton** (1911-1979) was a pianist and composer of mainly Jazz. He is from Wichita in Sedgwick County. **William Allen White** (1886-1944) was an editor and author connected with Emporia University. He is from Emporia, in Lyon County. William is also a Pulitzer Prize Winner. **Susanna M. Salter** (1860-1961) was born in Ohio. She moved to Kansas at the age of 12 and lived near Silver Lake, in Shawnee County. She became mayor of Argonia, in Sumner County, thus being the first woman in Kansas to be elected mayor.

A Journey through Southwest Kansas with Attractions and Individuals

The Southwest Area has 110 KAFCE Members and 10 Units. Southwest Area Says “Don’t be afraid to go a little wild here.”

ATTRACTIONS:

Little Jerusalem Badlands in Oakley, in Logan County, is a 332-acre park and 220 acres of badlands that was established in 2018. The famous **salt mines** in Hutchinson, in Reno County. Covers 980 acres and started as Carey Salt in 1923. The salt mines were formed over 300 million years ago. The Muekker-Schmidt House in Dodge City, Ford County, is made of limestone and is now a museum. It was built in 1881. **Fromme-Birney Round Barn** is in Mullinville, Kiowa County. It was built in 1912 by Henry Fromme for his draft horses and has 16 sides to make it appear round.

INDIVIDUALS:

Satanta might have been born in the SW region of Kansas. All that is said about his birth is that it is south of the Canadian River. He was Chief of the Kiowa Tribe near Medicine Lodge, Barber

County. **Eddie Sutton** was born(1936-2020) in Bucklin, in Ford County. He was the Oklahoma State Basketball coach. Carry Nation was born in Kentucky. She led the temperance movement in Medicine Lodge. **Martina McBride** was born in 1966 in Sharon, in Barber County, and is a country music singer. **Bartholemew William Barclay “Bat” Masterson** (1853-1921) was born in Quebec but moved to the Western frontier. He was a buffalo hunter, civilian scout, and Indian fighter on the Great Plains. Earned his fame as a gunfighter and sheriff in Dodge City.

A Journey through Southeast Kansas with Attractions and Individuals—

The Southeast Area has 100 KAFCE Members and 11 Units. Southeast says journey through stories of bravery, and then curb your appetite with time-tested recipes passed through generations.

ATTRACTIONS:

The Buster Keaton Museum is in Piqua, in Woodson County. It is in a one-room museum and is very fascinating. The world’s longest **yellow brick road** is in Sedan, in Chautauqua County. The road has 10,650 bricks with people’s names inscribed on them. Every U.S. State and 28 foreign countries are represented. There is a special section for veterans. Bob Hope, Liz Taylor, Whoopi Goldberg, and Boxcar Willie are some Celebrities with a brick. **Rainbow Bridge** (1923) is an old bridge over Brush Creek near Riverton, in Cherokee County. The bridge is a single-span concrete Marsh arch bridge and is the only surviving bridge on the entire length of the former highway. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to its connection with Route 66, the bridge is fairly narrow. A replacement bridge has been built to handle the traffic. **Cars on the Route**, formerly 4 Women on the Route, is in Galena, in Cherokee County. It is a fun stop on Old U.S. Highway 66. Emphasize the connection to the movie “Cars”. It is an old Kan-O-Tex service station that four women refurbished. They are a deli, sell antiques, and Car’s items.” Tow Tater” still runs and can be used for hire in special events. **The Little House of the Prairie** log cabin resembles the one described in “Little House on the Prairie”. The cabin is listed as the 89th residence of Rutland Township in the 1870 U.S. Census. The Ingalls’ family lived there for 1 year. The cabin is located 12 miles southwest of Independence, in Montgomery County. **Dinosaur Not So National Park** started in Robert Dorris' yard southwest of Erie, in Neosho County. Robert began by sketching dinosaurs assembled from old car parts to create these sculptures. The largest dinosaur is 30 feet long. The Erie Dinosaur Park was opened in 2015. Most of the sculptures were donated to the park, but the family kept a few statues.

Isham’s Hardware Store in Coffeyville, in Montgomery County, is where many people bought guns to stop the Dalton gang. The doors opened in 1870 and are still open. Only 2 families have owned the store. They say, “If Isham’s doesn’t have it, then you don’t need it”. The town that stopped the Daltons is Coffeyville, in Montgomery County. The **Condon National Bank** was built by Luther Perkins in 1890. It would house many different stores. Bob Dalton planned to outdo the James boys by using Coffeyville, Kansas, for a spectacular double bank robbery. The robbery ended with 4 of the 5 outlaws being killed. Big Brutus is an electric shovel, the second-largest

type in operation in the 1960s and 1970s. It is located outside of West Mineral, in Cherokee County. Big Brutus was in operation till 1974 in coal mines. It was moved on 150 railroad cars to be assembled in Kansas. When it was retired, it was too big to move, so it was left in place. It cost \$6.5 million to build.

INDIVIDUALS:

Samuel J. Crawford (1835-1913) was born in Indiana. Samuel began law practice in Garnett, in Anderson County, in 1859. He organized the Republican Party in Kansas. He assisted in putting the state government into operation and became the 3rd Governor of Kansas. **Sam Brownback** (1956) is an American Attorney, politician, and diplomat. Sam served as a US Senator from Kansas and was the 46th Governor. Sam was born in Garnett, in Anderson County. **Vivian Vance** (1909-1979) played Ethel Mertz on the show "I Love Lucy". Vivian won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress. She was born in Cherryvale, in Montgomery County, the second of six children. **John Brown** (1800-1859) was born in Connecticut. John was an American abolitionist before the Civil War. He led the antislavery volunteers during the Bleeding Kansas crisis. He was executed by hanging. **Harry Hines Woodring** (1887-1967) was the 53rd United States Secretary of War and the 25th Governor of Kansas. Harry was born in Elk City, in Montgomery County. **Gordon Parks** (1912-2006) was born in Fort Scott, in Bourbon County, the youngest of 15 children. Gordon was a photographer, composer, author, poet, and filmmaker. He became a US Documentary photojournalist in the 1940s. **Carrie Ingalls** (1870-1946) was born in Independence, in Montgomery County. She is the younger sister of Laura Ingalls Wilder (author of the Little House books). Carrie was a typesetter for the "DeSMet News" and other papers. Her husband had a part in the naming of Mount Rushmore. **Buster Keaton** (1895-1966) was an American actor, comedian, and filmmaker who was born in Piqua, in Woodson County. He was best known for his silent films during the 1920s. He was known by the nickname "The Great Stone Face". **Lucinda Todd** (1996) was an African-American teacher and education activist. Lucinda was born in Litchfield, in Crawford County. Lucinda could only teach if she was single, so when she married Alvin Todd in 1935, she had to quit her job. She brought music to the black schools.

Enjoy your "**Journey through Kansas**". Be sure to take someone with you and pass our history along to someone else.

Resources:

Wikipedia, "The Free Encyclopedia" website

"*Kansas Byways: to the Open Road*" is available from www.travelks.com for free.

"*Kansas To the Stars*"-Official Travel Guide 2025 available from www.travelks.com for free

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