

January 2026

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

- Abraham Lincoln



Celebrate the first snow of January by inviting kids to make snow angels in the park.

Celebrate Kansas Day!

- Visit the **Kansas Museum of History** or the **Statehouse**, in Topeka, for special Kansas Day celebrations.
- **Do you know** the Kansas state animal? Bird? Song? When did Kansas enter the Union and what number is Kansas in this order? Find this info, and more at KansasHistory.gov.



"Sports and other forms of physical activity inspire us -- they bridge differences, unite Americans from every walk of life, and teach the importance of teamwork." - Barack Obama

- Set a walking or exercise goal for the year. 250 miles perhaps?

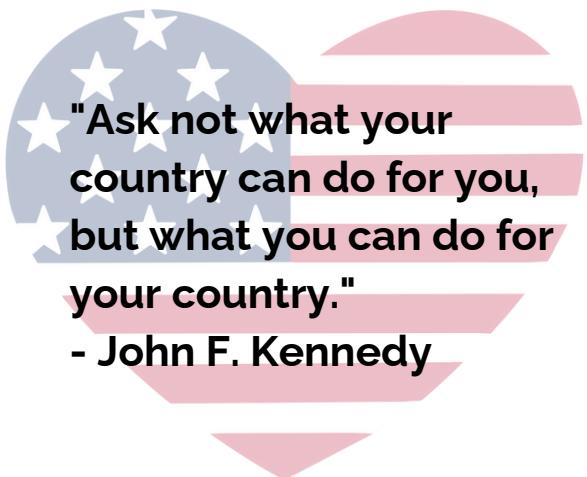


**Celebrating America 250
in Kansas**

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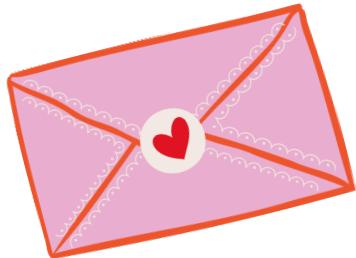
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February 2026



Celebrate what you love about Kansas.

Create Valentines for Kansas!



- Create spaces in your community to display homemade **valentines to Kansas or to America**. Library? City Hall? School hallway? Coffeeshop?
- Encourage schools to set aside time for **students to share what they love about their community, state, and country**.
- Send a friend or family member an invite to visit and show them **what you love most** about your community or Kansas.

Love your Community - Place a list of suggestions for how and where community members can **volunteer** on a website or community message board.



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March 2026

"The United States themselves are essentially the greatest poem."
- Walt Whitman



Celebrate the written word during National Poetry Month.

Celebrate the expectation of warmer months by flying kites!

- Provide **kite making kits** and supplies.
- Award prizes for the most patriotic kite, the longest flight, the best design, etc.

Learn about birds and birding.

- Involve local birders to teach sessions on **Kansas birds and habitats**.
- Take a road trip to **Cheyenne Bottoms** and **Quivira National Wildlife Refuge**, both with international importance as a migratory stop for North American shorebirds..
- Download the **Merlin Bird ID app**, record, and ID the birds you hear in your neighborhood, park, or on your favorite Kansas outdoor adventure.



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April 2026

"Where flowers bloom,
so does hope."
- Lady Bird Johnson



Plant America 250 legacy
trees on public property.

Make your community shine!



- Create partnerships to **plant flowerbeds** in the park or at City Hall. Purchase downtown planters and **help businesses** keep them watered all summer!
- Start a **Community Garden** and share your produce, time, and knowledge of growing food.

Celebrate Spring with an Easter egg hunt in the park!



- Include **Golden Eggs** that win an America 250 or Kansas 250 commemorative item (Semiquin the Bison is a hit with kids!) or tickets to Kansas experiences.



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May 2026

"Education is not the means of showing people how to get what they want. Education is an exercise by means of which enough men, it is hoped, will learn to want what is worth having."

- Ronald Regan



Celebrate education in America.

Show appreciation for educators at a **community-wide event** during **Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4 – 8**.



- Collect and disburse **classroom supplies** in your community to replenish what has been used during the school year.
- Invite the community to encourage teachers at a come-and-go **root beer float event** in the park. Add **music** to help draw a crowd.
- Provide **educational programming** about Kansas History. Get your local **historical association** involved to share a few topics of interest.

Sign up for your local library's **summer reading** program and check off a few books on their history reading list! Read to yourself, read to your kids, read at a nursing home, etc.



AMERICA
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June 2026

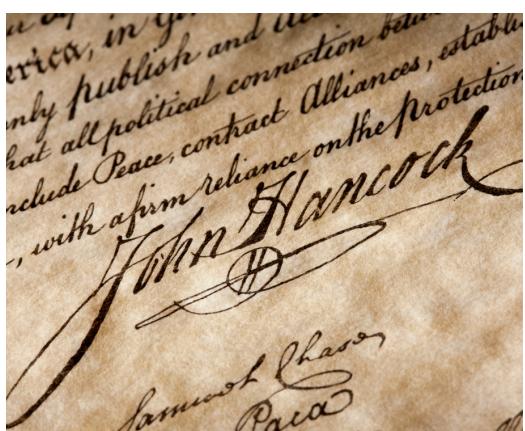
"The biggest challenge facing the great teachers and communicators of history is not to teach history itself, nor even the lessons of history, but why history matters. How to ignite the first spark of the will o'the wisp, the Jack o'lantern, the ignis fatuus [foolish fire] beloved of poets, which lights up one source of history and then another, zigzagging across the marsh, connecting and linking and writing bright words across the dark face of the present. There's no phrase I can come up that will encapsulate in a winning sound-bite why history matters. We know that history matters, we know that it is thrilling, absorbing, fascinating, delightful and infuriating, that it is life."

- Stephen Fry, *Making History*



Celebrate Flag Day, June 14.

Learn more about the history of America and Kansas!



- Incorporate American and Kansas **history learning stations** in your community. Let participants win/earn small **flags or stickers** that celebrate American and Kansas history.
- Host a **community concert** with patriotic music.
- Provide website links online (or in a community newspaper or newsletter) to area **Kansas historical sites to visit** this summer, particularly those important to national history.
- Encourage local museums or historic sites to **provide free admission** for a limited time and encourage residents to rediscover local stories.



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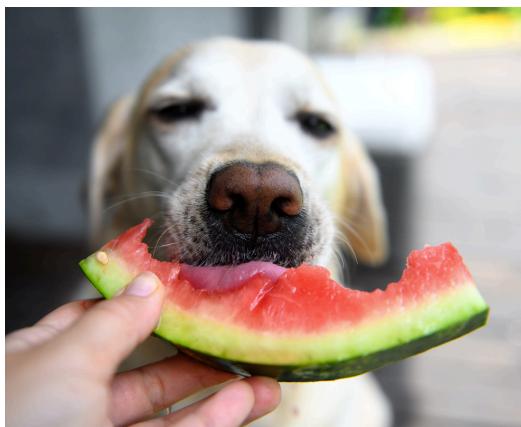
July 2026

"The happy Union of these States is a wonder; their Constitution a miracle; their example the hope of Liberty throughout the world."
– James Madison



Celebrate the 4th of July with a big BANG!

Make July about Community!



- Foster interactions by planning a neighborhood **picnic dinner** or **community-wide cookout**.
- Encourage **friends, neighbors, and new residents** to participate in an event with family friendly activities complete with lawn games available for community play.
- Provide **live music** to support Kansas artists.
- Partner with your **local grocer** to host a watermelon feed.
- Create a **watermelon seed spitting** contest.
- Encourage **flags** to be flown from front porches.



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August 2026

“Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

– Maya Angelou



Celebrate the work of community public servants.

August provides end-of-summer fun!

- **Gather** at your local park, fairgrounds, or outside City Hall for a back-to-school doughnut breakfast, or post 1st day of school snacks. Celebrate your kids and that amazing feeling they have of being a year older.
- Get wet with some after classes **sprinkler fun!** Invite military, fire fighters, EMS, and police to be involved with water fun **for the kids...and the kids at heart.**
- Serve **ice cream cups or popsicles** at an evening event. Or...go bigger and serve **hot dogs**, chips, and drinks, too! Provide time to make connections for new residents to learn more about the school system and community from seasoned parents.



Provide **breakfast or local coffeeshop coupons** for public servants.



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September 2026

"I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain."

– John Adams



Celebrate Kansas Arts with Chalk Art at City Hall or in a Community Park.

Attend the Kansas State Fair!



- Find your county's banner on the fairgrounds and post a selfie. **#Kansas250 #America250 #KansasStateFair**
- State Fair **Bingo** Challenge – Eat a Pronto Pup, visit the milking barn, see the baby chicks, paddle boat Lake Talbot, and other fun challenges.
- Find **Ike the Bison** and take a selfie.

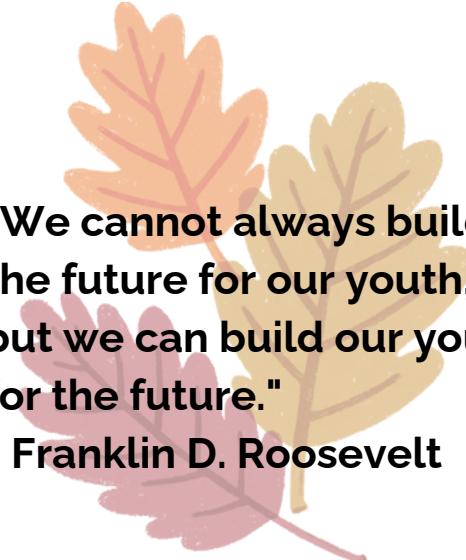


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October 2026

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."
- Franklin D. Roosevelt



Provide passes to museums, galleries, other fun Kansas activities for Halloween Treats.

Include City Hall or your downtown in Trunk or Treat!



- Host a Yellow Brick Road **Parade of Costumes**.
- Award best Wizard of Oz or patriotic **costume prizes**.
- Set up a **hay bale maze or pumpkin toss** on the park lawn.
- Host old-fashioned **hayrack rides**.
- Provide pumpkins for a **decorating contest**.
- Make City Hall Education Days available for all grades, teaching kids the importance of government and civic responsibility.



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November 2026

"With the completion of the cycle of winter and summer, seedtime and harvest, we come to the traditional time of thanksgiving, when our minds and hearts turn to Almighty God in grateful acknowledgment of His mercies throughout the year."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower



Invite a new family or senior citizen to share a meal.

Be purposeful in your thanks for the bounty of America!



- Include school and community activities that teach America's strong belief in **helping those in need** with the abundance of what we have.
- Designate a place for easy **food bank or clothing donation** drop off.
- Utilize **volunteers** of all ages to package and disburse items to individuals in need.
- Encourage community members to participate in seasonal food drives or **start a local food pantry or meal program** for those in need.



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December 2026

"At this time of year, when the nights grow longer and often colder, our lives are brightened and our hearts warmed by the lights of Christmas. So much light surrounds our memories and celebration of Christmas: candlelight in the windows, colored lights twinkling on the tree, children's faces lit with a joy that is reflected in their parents' eyes. The beloved Christmas story itself is a story of light for, as the Gospel of John tells us, Jesus came into the world as 'the true light' that illuminates all humankind. Almost 2,000 years later, that light still shines amid the dark places of our world. ... May all who celebrate Christmas this year rejoice in the special gifts of light that it brings: the love that warms our hearts, the faith that lights our journey and the hope that promises us a bright future."

– Bill Clinton

Gather together and celebrate the season!



- Create a **community choir** and host an evening of house-to-house caroling. Include stops at senior living facilities.
- Serve **hot apple cider and cocoa** to participants.
- Create **special lighting** to celebrate America 250 at Christmas. Luminaries provide a warm touch.
- Use social media or local TV channels to **include the elderly and shut-ins** in the holiday festivities.

Boston Tea Party Anniversary – December 16

- Involve local coffee shops in coffee and tea specials/events, tea parties, etc.



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