

Once again, Kansas' rich cultural attractions, remarkable outdoor resources and breathtaking scenery made Kansas a prime destination for millions of visitors from every corner of the globe.

Tourism plays a prominent and growing role in our state's economy. Kansas welcomed a record 36 million visitors in Fiscal Year 2016. Those visitors supported nearly \$10.8 billion in business sales in Kansas, supporting 95,000 jobs – 5.1% of all jobs in Kansas.

A big part of this success is due to the outstanding efforts of the Kansas Tourism Division, tourism-related organizations and businesses, and the individuals who work in the industry.

I appreciate their work and offer my support to this vital industry as we continue to move Kansas forward and enhance our ability to attract visitors from around the world.

Sincerely,

Robin Jennison, Secretary

Kansas Department Wildlife, Parks & Tourism



Storms pour down rain as they roll over the Arikaree Breaks.

Cover: Kanopolis State Park



Fiscal year 2017 was exciting for Kansas Tourism and the state's tourism industry! The centennial of the National Park Service, the 150th celebrations of the Chisolm Trail, the opening of the Evel Knievel Museum, the development of the Flint Hills Nature Trail, and other exciting happenings in cities and towns across the state all contributed to increased visitation, spending and jobs in Kansas' leisure and hospitality sector. New restaurants, hotels, wineries and breweries have opened at an amazing rate as developer's confidence in the industry continues to grow.

Our job within the Kansas Division of Tourism is to inspire travelers to choose Kansas, enhancing the overall economic vitality of our state. The talented, passionate and creative staff of the Kansas Tourism Division have worked hard and accomplished some great things this year toward achieving our mission. This report highlights a few of those efforts. Please take a look and let us know what you this as your feedback is important to us!

In conclusion, what we've accomplished couldn't have happened without the partnership of you and our tourism industry colleagues across all 105 counties. Every Kansan is part of the Tourism Team, as such I consider you Kansas' greatest assets. It's your capital investments coupled with friendly service and warm smiles that keep our guests coming back for more. Thank you for your commitment to our great state! Because of what you do every day, there truly is no place like Kansas to visit, live, work, play and stay!

Sincerely,

Linda Craghead, Asst. Secretary

Binda Craghead

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism



LINDA CRAGHEAD

Asst Secretary, Kansas Department Wildlife, Parks & Tourism linda.craghead@ks.gov

### KANSAS TOURISM TEAM



### **KELLI HILLIARD**

PR & Travel Development Mgr. kelli.hilliard@ks.gov

### **SUE STRINGER**

Agritourism & Byways Mgr. sue.stringer@ks.gov

### LOGAN HILDEBRAND

Digital Marketing Mrg. logan.hildebrand@ks.gov

### **MONA CARVER**

Travel Information Center Mgr. mona.carver@ks.gov

### CONNIF HARTFORD

**Executive Assistant** connie.hartford@ks.gov

### **COLBY TERRY**

Fiscal, Signage & Grants Mgr. colby.terry@ks.gov

### **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON TRAVEL & TOURISM**

Jan Stevens - Dodge City Convention & Visitors Bureau Shelia Lampe - Lampe Heritage Farm & Pumpkin Patch Bridgette Jobe - Kansas City KS Convention & Visitors Bureau Lynda Fort - Kansas Bed & Breakfast Association Cheryl Collins - Riley County Historical Museum Jennifer Haugh - AAA Allied Group Suzan Barnes - Grand Central Hotel & Grill (TIAK) Susie Coleman - Triplett, Inc. (Petroleum Marketers)

Ken Corbet - Ravenwood Lodge Sarah Garten - Kansas Historical Society Senator Julia Lynn Semator Bud Estes Senator Tom Holland Representative Shannon Francis Representative Jan Kessinger Representative Adam Lusker

ANDRFA FT7FI

**Publications Mgr** 

andrea.etzel@ks.gov

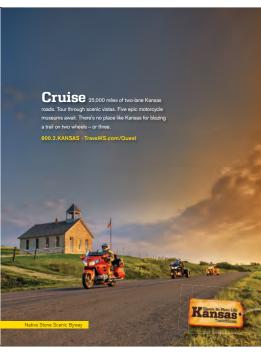
MARKETING #NoPlaceLikeKS

## **MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS**

### **ADDY AWARDS**







Print Ad Apparel Print Ad

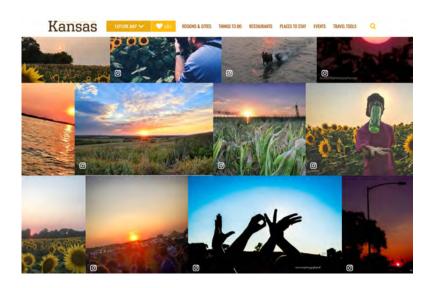
### IRMA AWARDS

International Regional Magazine Assoc.



**Annual Publication** 

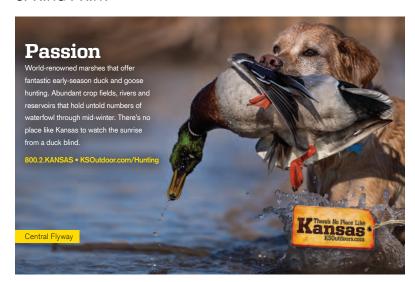
## **CROWDRIFF AWARDS**



Best Visual Website

## **ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS**

### **SPRING PRINT**









### **FALL PRINT**



Kansas Tourism received over

# **7 MILLION IMPRESSIONS**

from our print advertising placements.

### **PUBLICATIONS INCLUDED:**

Ducks Unlimited, Hog Magazine, AAA Living, Best of the Midwest, Midwest Living & American Road

### SPRING DIGITAL











FALL DIGITAL



### **HIGHLIGHTS**

In digital media, we reached audiences by utilizing a comprehensive media placement strategy that targeted based on demographics, geography and behavioral

46,296,554

Total Digital Ad Impression

#### DIGITAL AD PLACEMENTS

Persona	Impressions
Hunter Angler Outdoor Adventure Cylist Birdwatcher Motorcyclist Road Tripper History Buff Kansan	9,556,928 8,729,369 5,857,430 5,053,939 3,992,760 3,740,648 4,875,516 3,047,802 1,442,162
	46,296,554

**OVERALL DIGITAL TARGET MARKETS\*** 

Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma

\*Turkey and Waterfowl ads targeted nationwide.

In FY2017, Kansas Tourism unveiled a new responsive website platform on TravelKS.com. New elements include:

- A persona driven "Pick Your Kansas Adventure"
- Interactive Explorer Map
- Region & Cities navigation menu option
- Addition of specialized categories
- Microsites were also redesigned

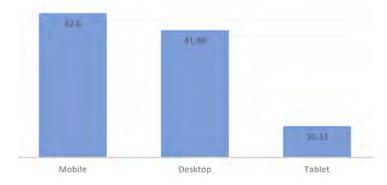
2,039,063

Total Pages Viewed

992,326 780,826

Sessions

**Unique Visitors** 



### Top 10 pages overall:

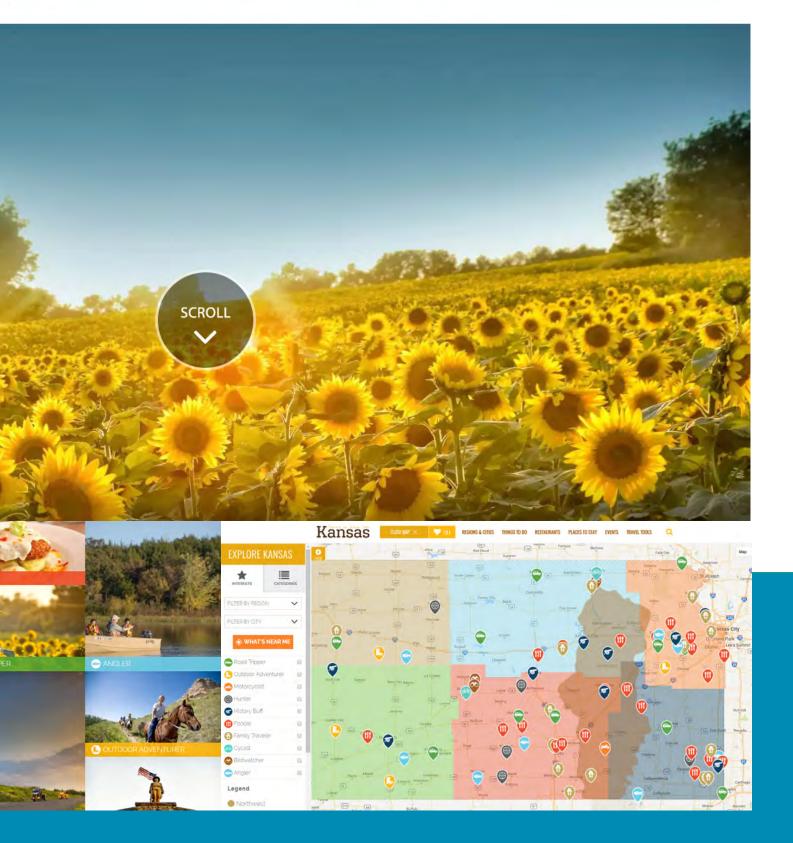
- 1. Home
- 2. Hunting 3. Events
- 4. Tour/motorcycling
- 5. Ksbucketlist

- 6. Travel guide
- 7. Cabins/lodges
- 8. Things to do
- 9. History Heritage
- 10. Other





### REGIONS & CITIES THINGS TO DO RESTAURANTS PLACES TO STAY EVENTS TRAVEL TOOLS



## **MICROSITES**



### KANSAS! magazine

Sessions: 28,528 Page Views: 58,889

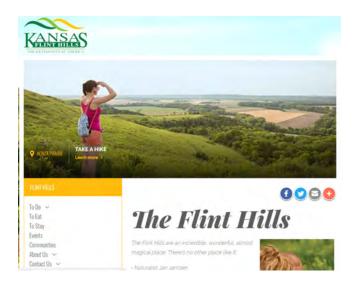
Users: 19,716



### Kansas Byways

Sessions: 55,823 Page Views: 42,167

Users: 42,167



### **Kansas Flint Hills**

Sessions: 16,320 Page Views: 29,365

Users: 12,393



### **Kansas River Trail**

Sessions: 6,306 Page Views: 4,553 Users: 13,005

## TRAVELKS APP







- Download Kansas Tourism's FREE Travel App
- Build and save your own unique itinerary
- App is built with geotracking so it's easy to find what there is to see and do near you.



### **NEW TRAVEL APP**

Launched in February, the TravelKS App has become a dynamic digital travel guide. The app allow Kansas Tourism to reach the tech savvy market who wants everything to be all in one place and can access it all on their phone.

### **FEBRUARY - JUNE**

278 Downloads

50.8 Average monthly users

1:06 Median time spent in app

918 Total actions taken

61.9 Average unique users

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

1,833

### SESSIONS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS

Have you downloaded our app? It's free on Apple i-Tunes and Google Play.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**



- @TravelKS
- @kansasmagazine
- @KSByways



- @kansastourism
- @kansasmagazine
- @KSByways



- @TravelKS
- @KANSASmag
- @KSByways

40,772

Total Followers

11,835

**Total Followers** 

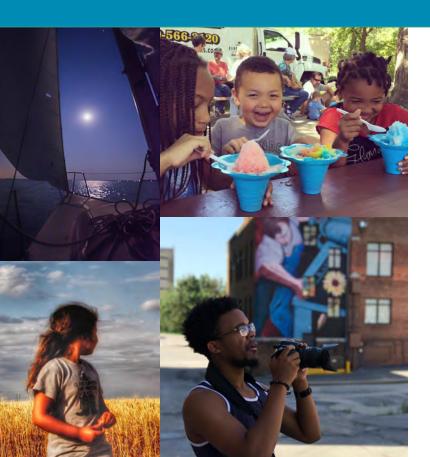
17,754

**Total Followers** 

13 paid social media campaigns generated

1,972,279 IMPRESSIONS

## **USER GENERATED PHOTOGRAPHY**



To assist us in capturing the countless stunning photography shot within our state we've partnered with Crowdriff, a social media aggregator. By searching hashtags, we've connected with hundreds of photographers - both native Kansans and those visiting our state.

103,408

Tota assets collected

10,893

Conversations with social media users

## #NOPLACELIKEKS

@charlesmorgan

## INSTAMEET | LINDSBORG

In April, Kansas Tourism hosted our first Instameet in Lindsborg, KS. We invited photographers and social influencers to a workshop presented by Jim Richardson, then attendees spent the afternoon exploring the community and nearby sites.

### **73 ATTENDEES**

186,000+

Instagram Following of Attendees

@sosborn0202

14,334 Potential Reach

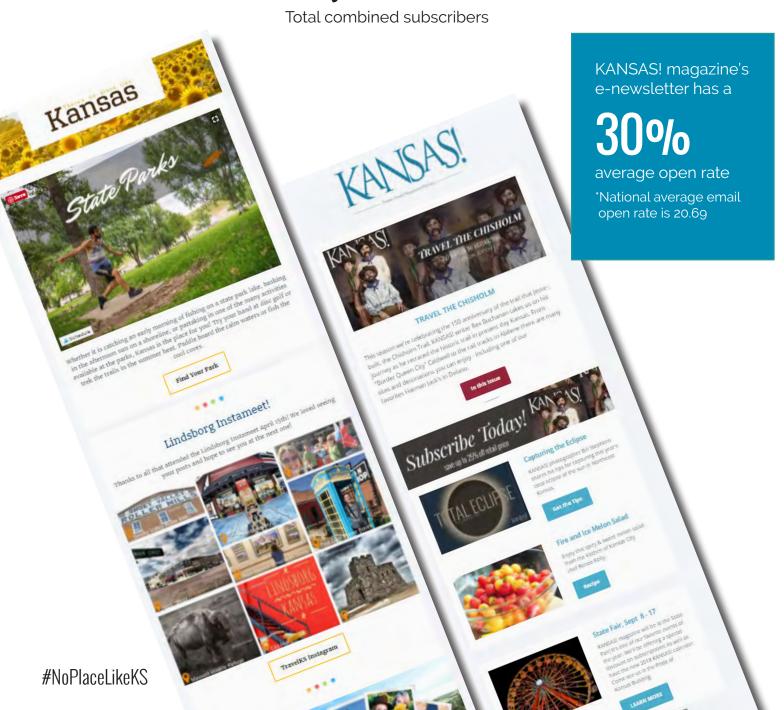
Before the Instameet, #NoPlaceLikeKS had been



## **EMAIL MARKETING**

# 651,503 Total eBlasts sent to consumers

49,122





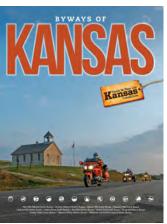
## **PUBLICATIONS**

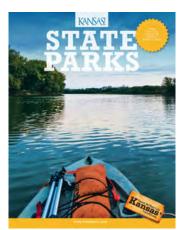
972,360
Total Publications Distributed

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY2017, Kansas Tourism increased our print run by 50,000 guides, making our total print count 400,000 copies. These additional guides were polybagged with *Midwest Living* magazine to subscribers in lowa and Arkansas. This was made possible by our partnership with Meredith Corporation









1,412

Listings in the 2017 Travel Guide

### **Top 10 Request Markets**

Kansas
 Michigan

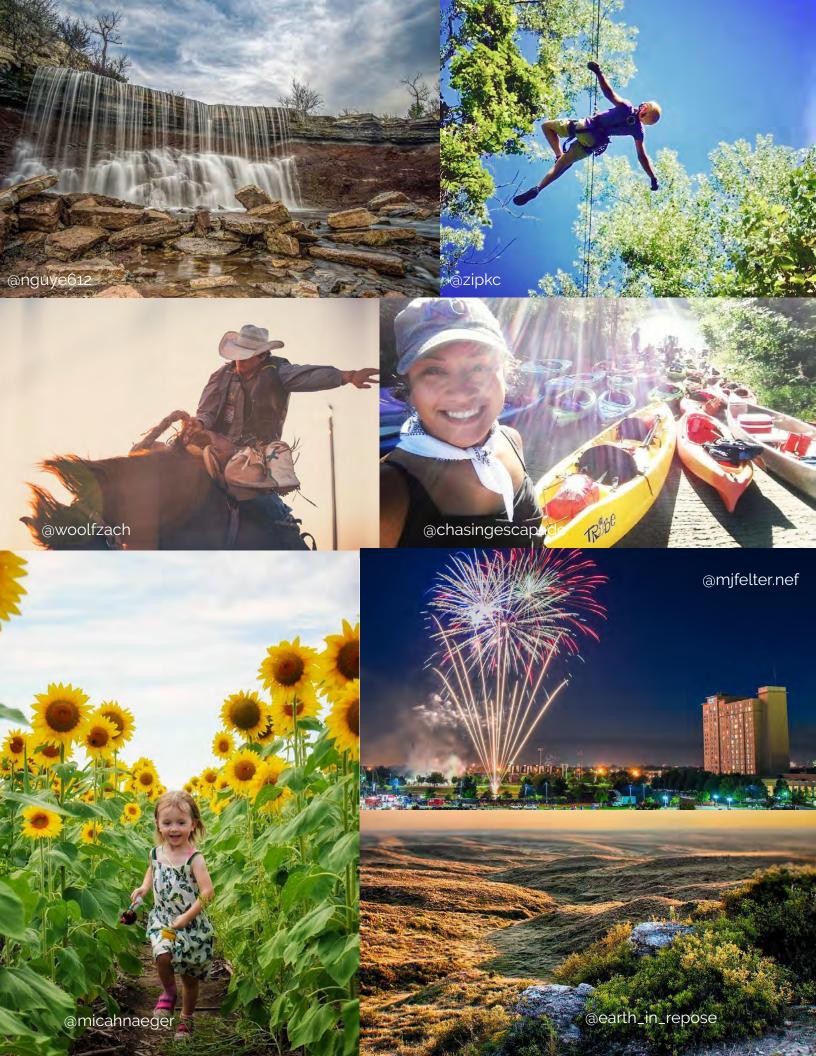
2. Texas 7. Indiana

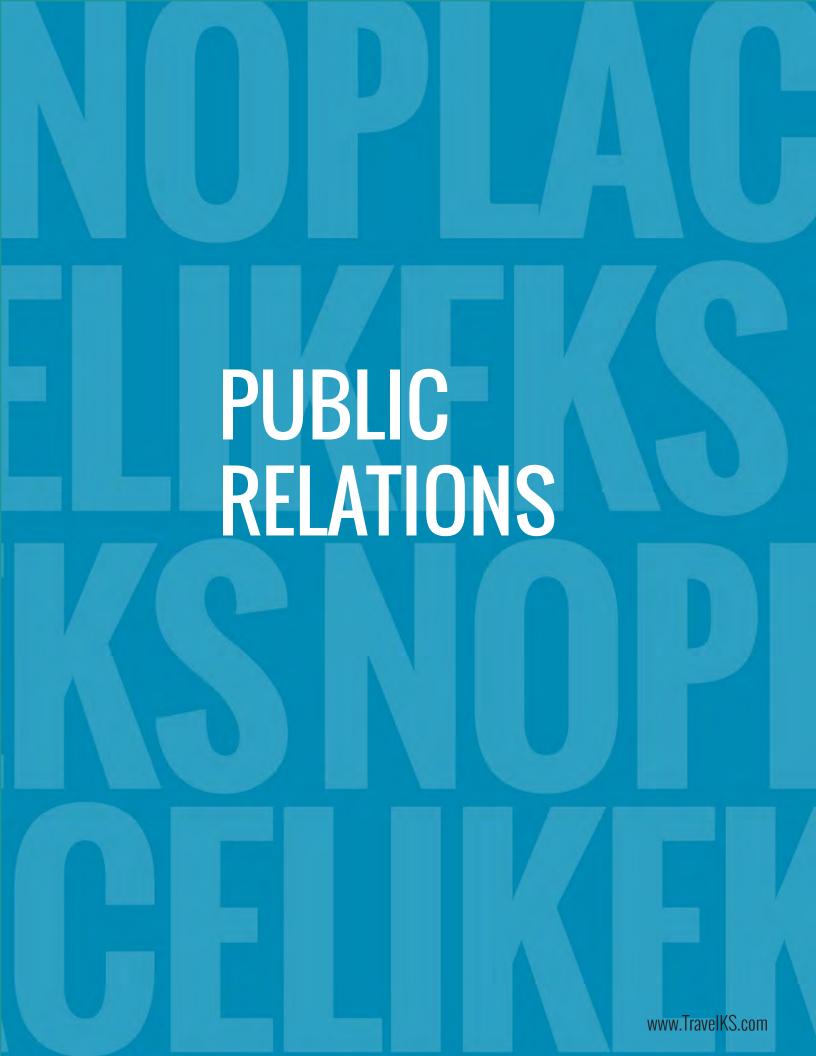
3. Missouri 8. Tennessee

4. Illinois 9. Wisconsin

5. Ohio 10. Florida

Other publications distributed include: Kansas Road Maps, Byways Fun Facts, Kansas Wineries Map, Kansas State Park Coloring Book, Fishing Atlas, Fishing Regulations, Hunting Atlas & Hunting Regulations





## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### HIGHLIGHTS

Over

# 600 MILLION

earned media impressions

Over

\$3.6 MILLION

in media value

Added over

**2,200** articles to the PR database

Assisted with over

380

articles, story ideas and photo requests

### **HIGHLIGHTS**



### Group Travel Leader

March 2017

"Explore America's Crossroads"



### Chicago Tribune

November 2016 "New statues in Kansas commemorate Orphan Train movement"



EXPLORE AMERICA'S CROSSROADS

### Smithsonian Magazine

May 2017

"Abilene named one of 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2017"

## **MEDIA SHOWS**

# 97 MEDIA CONNECTIONS

### **EVENTS ATTENDED**

- North American Travel Journalist Assoc.
- New York Times Travel Show



### HIGHLIGHTS

This April, Kansas Tourism partner Meredith Corporation held an exclusive spring media event at their Headquarters. Attending Kansas communities met with writers and editors of many Meredith publications promoting their destinations and building stronger media connections.

### **COMMUNITIES WHO ATTENDED**

Manhattan, Lecompton, Kansas City, Dodge City, Liberal, Wichita, Concordia, I-70 Association, Salina & Goodland

### **PUBLICATIONS IN ATTENDANCE**

Better Homes & Gardens, Midwest Living, Successful Farming, Living the Country Life, Country Gardens, Traditional Home, Diabetic Living & AllRecipies







## **DIGITAL ASSETS**

37,628

total digital assets stored

### **NEW CREATIVE CAMPAIGNS**

- Evel Knievel Museum
- Kansas Outdoor Adventure
- Wanderlust Road Trip
- Couples Getaway

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

In FY2017, Kansas Tourism selected Libris by Photo Shelter to be our digital asset management tool. Libris allows for us to store both digital photography and video in one location. With it's robust search abilities it has streamlined the process of locating digital media.

It also allows for photographers, partners and other state agencies to share and upload their photography and videos directly to the system. Media can also request files for download to use in articles, blogs and publications.



## **SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS**



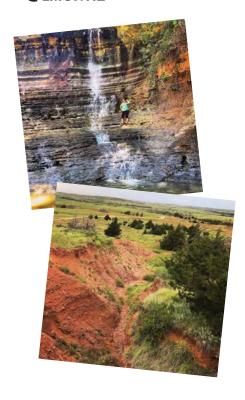
@LMONTIZ



@HERHEARTLANDSOUL



**@CHRISTINEEXPLORING** 







**HIGHLIGHTS** 

Over

60,000 impressions on influence

impressions on influencers' social media accounts

### **COMMUNITIES VISITED**

Lucas, Sylvan Grove, Lindsborg, Canton, Marquette, Minneapolis, Lawrence, Kansas City, Manhattan, St. Francis, Dodge City, Greensburg, Medicine Lodge, Hays, Goodland, Scott City, Garden City, Winfield, Independence, Ottawa, Junction City, Ellis, Collyer, Quinter & Oakley





## INTERNATIONAL

### **UK MARKETING MISSION**

Last summer Kansas Tourism, in partnership with Oklahoma Tourism, hosted a 12-day marketing mission to the United Kingdom and Ireland, meeting with 24 wholesale tour operators, 101 retail travel agents and 10 travel media in Edinburgh, Preston, Chesterfield, Nottingham, Leicestershire, London, Southampton, Bromley, Winchester, Cork, Belfast and Dublin.

## 26 CONSUMER TRADE SHOWS

Germany (Dortmund, Stuttgart, Dresden, Hanover, Hamburg, Munich, Berlin, Dusseldorf and Kempton); Austria (Vienna); Switzerland (St Gallen, Zürich, Bern and Lucerne); United Kingdom (London, Belfast, Southampton); and Ireland (Dublin, Cork and Middleton).

# 70,000 DISTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL GUIDE

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

In Wuppertal, Germany, near Dusseldorf, the Road Stop hotel provides themed rooms for their guests. There is now a Kansas/Oklahoma themed room. Other initatives also included wrapping vehicles and public transportation generating millions of consumer impressions.





IPW, held in Washington D.C.

## **GROUP SALES**



### **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **TOUR KANSAS**

Provided sponsorship dollars to attend the American Bus Association Convention in Cleveland, OH.

Seventeen appointments were conducted with tour operators promoting the state of Kansas.

### **SPORTS KS**

Provided sponsorship dollars to help host the Sports Relationship Conference in Overland Park, KS.

Over 40 sports event planners and 13 Kansas destinations attended the Sports KS night event at Pinstripes.

### **MEET KANSAS**

Provided sponsorship dollars to help support the Kansas Society of Association Executives conference in Lawrence.

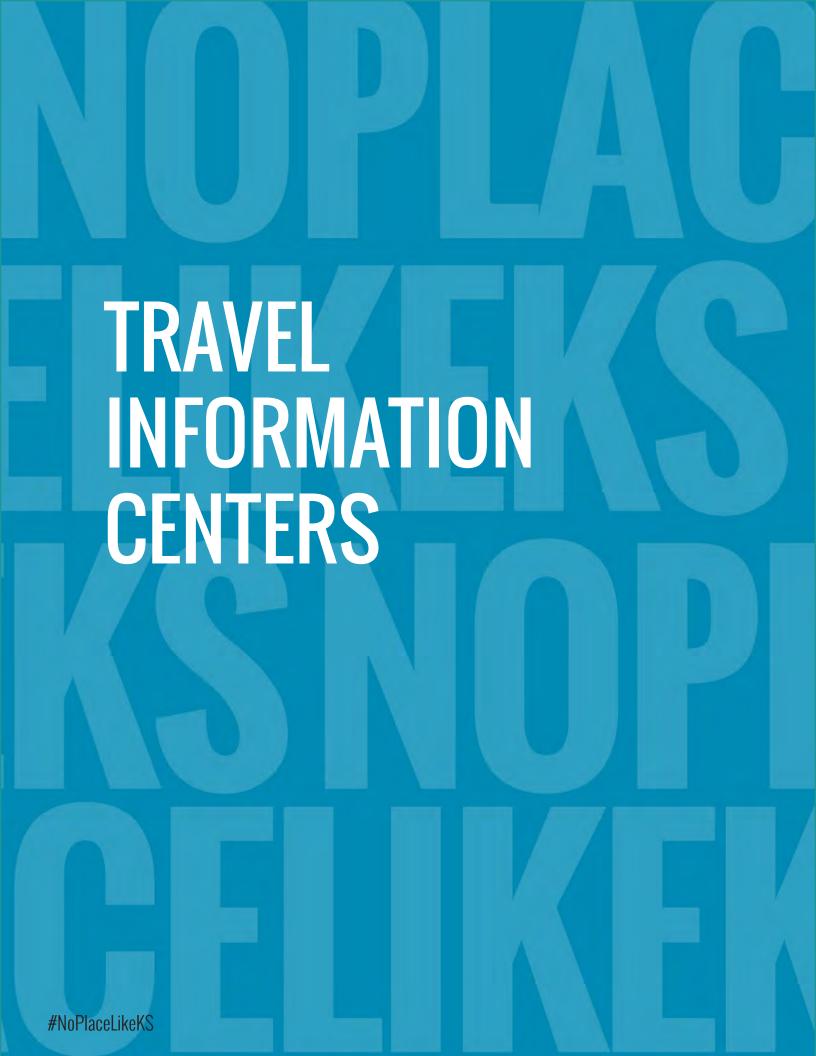
Over 35 meeting planners attended the conference.



Tour Kansas Showcase at Botanica in Wichita



Sports KS Night Event



## TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER



Belle Plaine Travel Information Center. Kansas also has a Travel Information Center in Goodland.





# 211,156

Total visitors at Kansas' State Travel Information Centers

## **3 NEW DESIGNATED**

Community Travel Information Centers in McPherson, Marysville & St. Francis.

Other community travel information centers: Abilene, Arkansas City, Atchison, Colby, Concordia, Dodge City, Great Bend, Greensburg, Hays, Lawrence, Liberal, Lindsborg, Oakley, Olathe, Ottawa, Paxico, Topeka & Wilson.

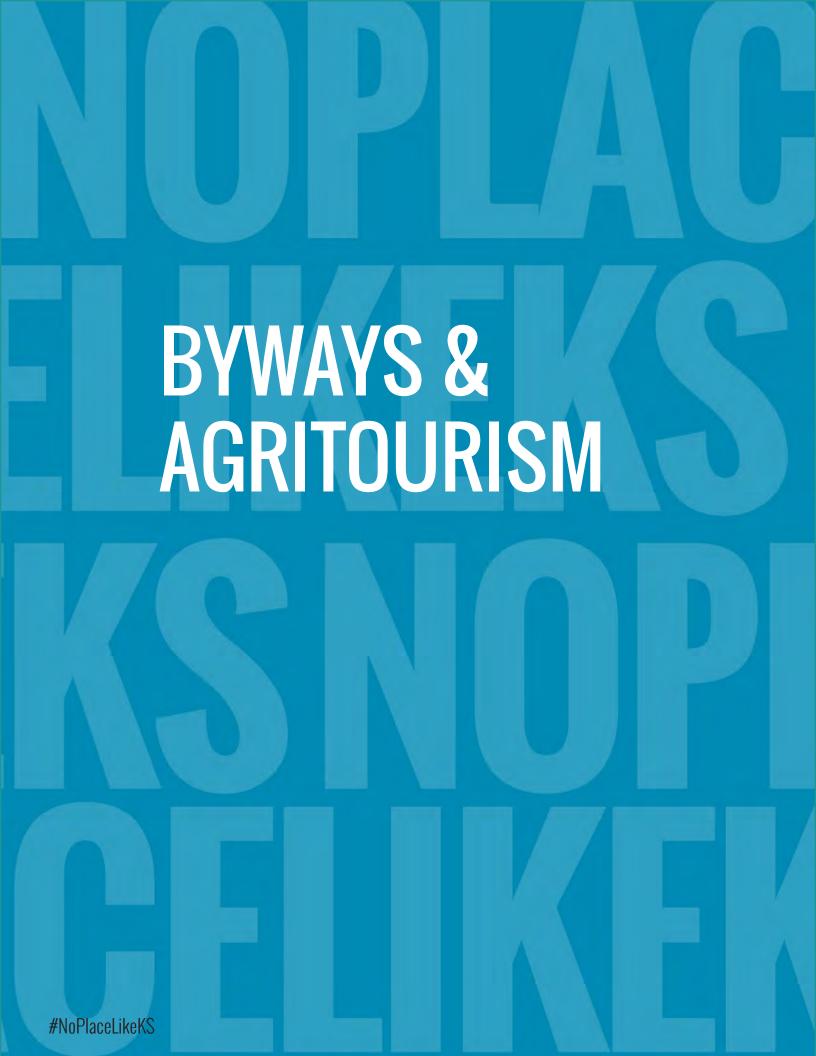
### **HIGHLIGHTS**

In FY2017, Mona Carver, Kansas Tourism's Travel Information Centers Manager, developed a certification program for Travel Information Center staff. To date Kansas Tourism has recognized six National Certified Counselors.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

This last year, our Travel Information Center partnered with many Kansas communites to promote their destinations and attractions.

- 461 ENROLLED BROCHURES
- 17 COMMUNITY BACKLITS
- 14 SHOWCASES
- 9 REFRESHMENT HOSTS



## **BYWAYS**













### **HIGHLIGHTS**

This past year, Kansas Byways welcomed a new addition, the Land & Sky Scenic Byway in northwest Kansas. In October, the byway held a ribbon cutting officially opening the scenic route between Wallace, Sherman and Cheyenne counties along Kansas Highway 27.

The Native Stone Scenic Byway received a designation of an extension in FY2017. It now includes K-99 north of I-70, then turns west onto K-18, west to K-177, and ending at the K-177 & I-70 interchange. Attractions along the extension include the Konza Prairie, Pillsbury Crossing, Flint Hills Discovery Center and the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church.



www.TravelKS.com

## **AGRITOURISM**



### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The number of registered agritourism business continues to grow. In the 2017 Kansas Official Travel Guide, a number of registered wineries were featured in the *Sips & Swigs* story. As well as our farm-to-table restaurants in *The Dish* feature.

340 registered agritourism businesses

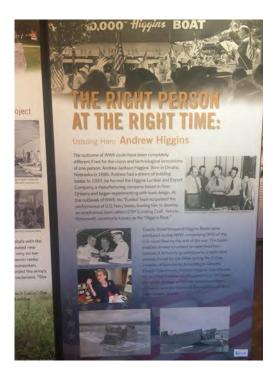
39 NEW AGRITOURISM REGISTRATIONS





## **GRANTS**







Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heros

### ATTRACTION DEVELOPMENT AWARDEES

**Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heros, New exhibits** *Fort Scott* 

Wamego Freedom Festival, Banner & trail blazing signage Wamego

### MARKETING GRANT AWARDEES

Lewis & Clark Auto Tour, Website advertising and digital display ads *Atchison - Kansas City* 

William Inge Theatre Festival Digital Advertising, eblasts & enewsletter Independence

Little House on the Prairie Museum, Brochures & post cards *Independence* 

Rice County Tourism, Tourism video production *Rice County* 

## **SPONSORSHIPS**

### **SPONSORSHIPS**

SportsKS Conference Statewide

From the Land of KS Conference *Manhattan* 

Smoky Hills Public Television Bunker Hill

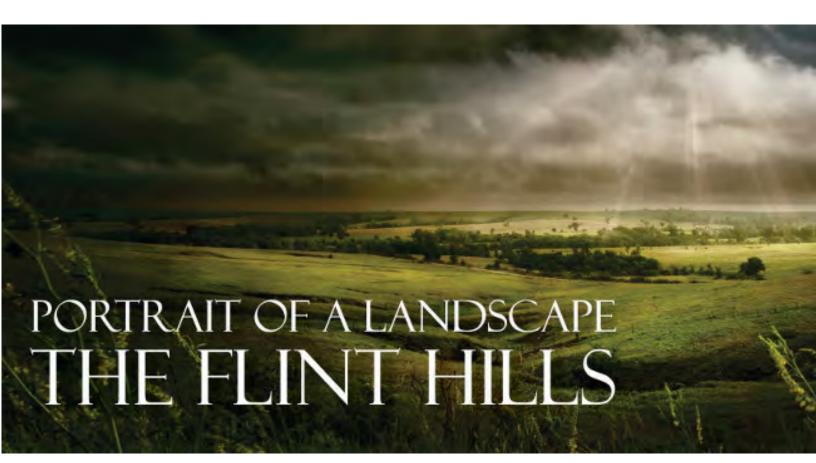
KTWU, Portrait of the Flint Hills *Topeka* 

USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Lawrence

**Symphony in the Flint Hills** *Geary County* 

Chisholm Trail 150th Celebration Central Kansas

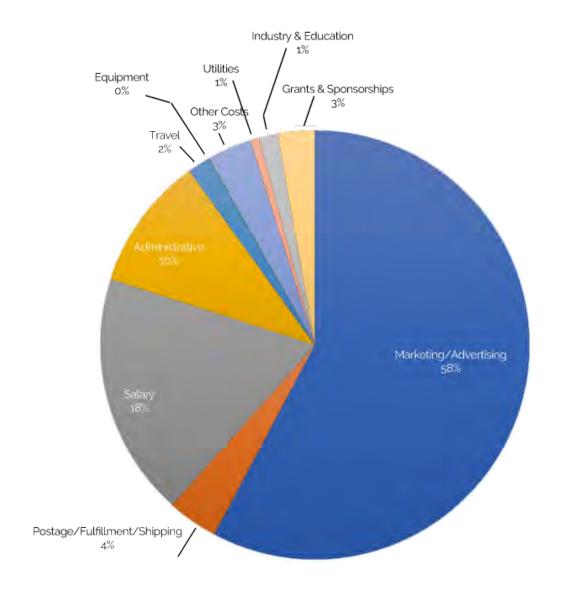






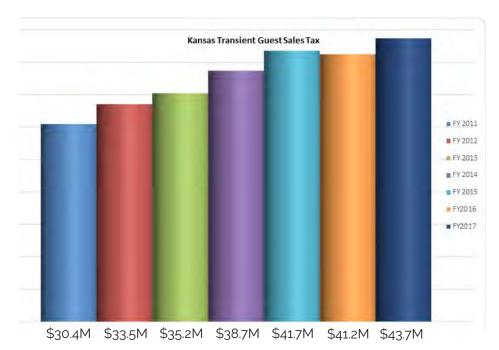


## **BUDGET**



Marketing	58%
Salary	18%
Administrative	10%
Postage/Fulfillment/Shipping	4%
Grants	3%
Other Costs	3%
Travel	2%
Industry/Education	1%
Utilities	1%
Equipment	0%

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**





Source: KS Department of Revenue

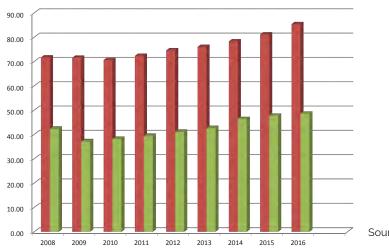
# \$15.3 MILLION INCREASE

### KANSAS STATE SALES TAX

In the last year, \$328.7 million in sales tax was generated in tourism industry NAICS codes (arts, entertainment, recreation, accomodation & food service).

Source: KS Department of Revenue

#### ANNUAL TOTALS OF HOTEL ROOM REVENUE



■ Annual Totals ADR (\$) KS
■ Annual Totals RevPAR (\$) KS

Source: Smith Travel Research

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

### TRAVEL EMPLOYMENT

According to a study by *U.S. Travel Association and U.S. Department of Labor*, travel employment has increased universally across all 50 states.

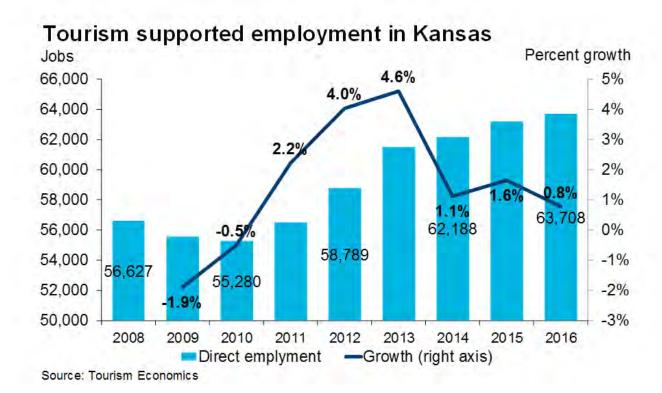
Kansas is in the top

## 1 OF 13 STATES

where the growth of travel employment grew at least 100% faster than the rest of the economy between 2010-2015.

Tourism employment growth

Tourism employment grew 0.8% in 2016, marking six straight years of employment growth.



## RESEARCH

