



April 2017

NEWS RELEASE

FROM: Kansas Sampler Foundation. Winfield contact, Sarah Werner, 620.221.2420, [kssamplerfest@gmail.com](mailto:kssamplerfest@gmail.com). Kansas Sampler Foundation contact, WenDee LaPlant, 620.585.2374, [wendee@kansassampler.org](mailto:wendee@kansassampler.org).

PICTURES: Contact WenDee

### LAST KANSAS SAMPLER FESTIVAL APPROACHES

Winfield, Kansas – The 28th, and final, Kansas Sampler Festival will take place May 6-7 in Winfield's Island Park. The largest outdoor travel show in the state will once again feature what there is to see, do, hear, taste, buy and learn in Kansas. Attendance in 2016 was 8,250.

More than 130 Kansas communities will be represented by tourism exhibitors, musicians, historic performers, entrepreneurs, food vendors, and free-standing exhibitors.

The 2017 festival is organized by the Winfield Chamber of Commerce and Tourism with chamber director Sarah Werner serving as the local festival director. More than 200 volunteers, city workers, and area sponsors make the festival possible.

The primary focus of the festival is to give the public ideas for Kansas day trips. Exhibitors from across the state will set up displays in twelve tents to promote tourism. Entrepreneurs will sell their products in three tents and another tent will feature Kansas wine and beer producers. There will be four stages for musicians and a fifth for historic performers. Nineteen food vendors will be found on the grounds. Among the free-standing exhibits will be a blacksmith demonstration and Pack goats and Mammoth donkeys.

This will be the final Kansas Sampler Festival before the foundation switches to a new format to educate the public about what Kansas has to see and do. The "Big Kansas Road Trip" will start in 2018 and the showcase counties for the road trip will be announced at the festival.

The festival began in 1990 as a book-signing party for Milferd and Marci Penner's *Kansas Weekend Guide* book. Some of the places in the guidebook set up displays. The crowd reaction was so positive that the event was given a name, the Kansas Sampler Festival, and was held on the Penner Farm near Inman for another seven years. It then rotated on a two-year basis to the host communities of Pratt, Ottawa, Independence, Newton, Garden City, Concordia, Leavenworth, Liberal, Wamego, and Winfield.

The new 480-page *Kansas Guidebook 2 for Explorers* by Marci Penner and WenDee Rowe will debut at the festival and can be purchased in the Kansas Explorers Club tent.

Festival hours are Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday May 7 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 7-12. For more information go to [kansassamplerfestival.com](http://kansassamplerfestival.com).

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