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NEWS RELEASE

RE: May 7-8, Kansas Sampler Festival

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

PICTURES: If you'd like festival pictures, contact WenDee

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KANSAS SAMPLER FESTIVAL ENTERS ITS 27TH YEAR IN WINFIELD

The 27th annual Kansas Sampler Festival will be held May 7-8 in Winfield's Island Park. More than 150 Kansas communities will showcase all there is to see, do, hear, taste, learn and buy in the state.

Festival hours are Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission fee is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 7-12. For more information go to kansassamplerfestival.com or call 620.221.2420.

Towns from Leavenworth to Elkhart will offer day trip suggestions and promote their Explorer Tourism attractions. Exhibitors in large tents show you what to see in particular counties or regions. For example, in the Lindsborg Community tent you can learn about Swedish Flat Plane Wood Carving, listen while RoJean Loucks plays the harp and try your hand at the Swedish game of Kubb on the grounds outside the tent. Nearby you can watch the age old art of blacksmithing by Pake McNally of Hardtner and feed the baby pack goats and pet the giant Mammoth donkeys from Council Grove's Paradise Ranch.

Find out about the unique designs of Steampunk jewelry designed by Kat Kaufman of Buhler and shop on-site from Kansas businesses like Dale Family Farms of Protection who will be selling their beef, summer sausage, beef sticks, and jerky. The public can even buy a ceramic pot and have it raku fired on site to take home that day.

Be mesmerized by Native American dancer and educator, Dennis Rodgers of Topeka as he performs a new program, "Native Country" with Jami Amber Lynne of Basehor. You'll also find historic performers such as Ann Birney, from Admire, who will portray Amelia Earhart.

Bierocks, grilled mac and cheese sandwiches, bison hot dogs, fruit kabobs, homemade ice cream, salad in a parmesan cheese cone, Mexican gelatins and Scottish sausage are just a few Kansas specialty items served by 20 food vendors.

WenDee LaPlant, Foundation assistant director said, "Island Park is set to be the perfect backdrop for a festival this large. It's a lovely setting where visitors can enjoy discovering the best that Kansas has to offer including art, scenic drives, specialty shops, attractions, events, and so much more. It's guaranteed that no one will leave this park without being amazed at all that Kansas has to offer."

Earlier this year, the foundation announced that 2017 would be the last year for the festival. A new Kansas Road Festival is now being planned with assistance from communities, tourism region organizations and members of the Kansas Explorers Club. Details about the new festival will be announced in 2017.

For more information about the festival go to www.kansassamplerfestival.com.

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