



# NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society  
6425 SW 6th Avenue  
Topeka KS 66615-1099  
785-272-8681 • kshs.org

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contacts

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org  
Sarah Garten • 785-272-8681, ext. 264 • sgarten@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2016

## **Celebrate National Day of the Cowboy at *West Fest***

TOPEKA, KS—If you lived in Kansas from 1866 to 1885, you could see cowboys driving longhorns toward the rail heads in Kansas cowtowns. Dozens of young men on horseback drove up to 2,000 head of cattle. Life on the trail was harsh for cowboys, who were faced with stampedes, long hours in the saddle, and hazardous weather. It was time for celebration when they reached their destination; cowboys earned between \$25 and \$40 a month, plus their food.

The cowboy inspired a new way of looking at life through cooking, clothing, language, and literature. Tales of the Old West became legend. That's why all across the country we acknowledge the contributions of cowboys, past and present.

It's time to celebrate at the Kansas Museum of History with *West Fest: National Day of the Cowboy*, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday, July 23. West Fest is fun for children 10 years old and younger. Museum admission is \$8 adults, \$6 students, children five and under and Kansas Historical Foundation members are free.

In the Museum gallery visitors can explore the gallery and special exhibit; climb inside the full-sized covered wagon, a great photo opportunity; gallop on stick ponies; and play cowboy bingo. The Mahaffie Stage Stop and Farm stagecoach is \$3 per ride; one ride is included with admission. Kettle corn and old-fashioned ice cream is on sale all day.

Many of the activities are free and include petting miniature horses and a mustang; campfire sing-a-long; roping; panning for gold; making bedazzled horseshoes; learning to track animals; playing historic games; face painting; and watching a vintage baseball game. Enjoy free hot dogs and chips, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., while supplies last.

Support for West Fest is provided by Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area; Dillon's, at 29th and Urish, Topeka; and Vanderbilt's, at 29th and Wanamaker, Topeka.

The Kansas Museum of History is located at 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka. For more information, call 785-272-8681, ext. 415, or visit [kshs.org/18502](http://kshs.org/18502).

**Connect with us!**

Our website: [kshs.org](http://kshs.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/kshistoricalociety](https://facebook.com/kshistoricalociety)

Twitter: [twitter.com/kansashistory](https://twitter.com/kansashistory)

YouTube: [youtube.com/kansashistorical](https://youtube.com/kansashistorical), [youtube.com/kansasmemory](https://youtube.com/kansasmemory)

Flickr: [flickr.com/kansashistoricalociety](https://flickr.com/kansashistoricalociety)

Pinterest: [pinterest.com/kansashistory](https://pinterest.com/kansashistory)