



2025 Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt Hunter Bios

Jennifer Anderson – WildHERness: Ms. Anderson is the treasurer for WildHERness. Born and raised in Kansas City, she comes from generations of hunters, fishers, and outdoor enthusiasts. She has cherished memories of spending time with her family on "The Farm" in Southwestern Missouri, where they would disconnect from the city and nurture their love for the outdoors. She enjoys recreating old memories and building new ones with her three children in the same place that has brought her so much joy.

Garrett Bader – TriStar: Garrett is the head of TriStar's research and development arm. He has recently married and welcomed a baby daughter.

Gus Bader—TriStar: Gus started American Arms in the 1980s, but he decided to sell the company and leave the firearms business. In 2003, some of his former employees from AA asked him to manage their business, TriStar Arms. Gus became a part owner of TriStar Arms in 2005, and he is now passing on the Presidency to his son, Ryan. Additionally, Gus is a founding sponsor and Board Member for the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt. He provides the Big Tom prize for the winning hunter and guide.

Ryan Bader – TriStar: Ryan is the President of TriStar Arms. He is married and has two children, aged 7 and 8. He enjoys hunting, golfing, and skiing, and has a deep appreciation for both the mountains and the beach; however, he will always consider Kansas his home. Ryan and his wife are actively involved in coaching youth sports and are engaged members of their church.

Pat Berndt – Berndt Wood Calls: Patricia (Pat) and her husband, John Berndt, collaborate to design custom calls. This year, each of the 2025 KOSTH youth hunters will receive a Berndt Custom Call as part of their participation in the hunt, thanks to Pat and John.

Jason Burckhalter- National Wild Turkey Federation: Mr. Jason Burckhalter was appointed co-CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) in 2022. Before his appointment, he held several leadership roles within the organization. He is an experienced senior-level professional in both for-profit and nonprofit habitat conservation efforts, having established partnerships at both national and regional levels with public, private, and governmental entities. An avid outdoorsman and sports enthusiast, Burckhalter resides in North Augusta, South Carolina, with his wife and two children.

Dr. Chris Degner - Radiologist, SSM Health: Dr. Chris Degner hails from Great Bend, Kansas. He graduated from Great Bend High School before attending Kansas State University and later the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. For 39 years, he practiced Interventional and Diagnostic Radiology before retiring in December 2024. His lifelong passions for fishing and hunting allow him to escape the concrete confines of the city.

David Dillner - City of El Dorado: Mr. David Dillner is the City Manager of El Dorado, Kansas. He earned his master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas. Before his current position, Mr. Dillner served as the Assistant City Manager in Winchester, Virginia, and as the City Administrator for Edgerton, Kansas. He also spent five years as the City Manager in Abilene. In addition to his professional responsibilities, David volunteers with Cub Scout Pack 222 in El Dorado, Rotary International, and the National Eagle Scout Association. He and his wife have three sons. Outside of family time, David enjoys reading and engaging in outdoor activities.

Senator Mike Fagg - Kansas State Senate: Senator Mike Fagg has been representing District 14 in the Kansas State Senate since 2021. A native of El Dorado, he has previously served on the El Dorado City Commission and as the city's Mayor. In the late 1990s, he also served as President of the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce. Senator Fagg, who has retired from the banking industry, is married to his wife, Deborah.

Gerald (Jerry) Fitzner—Federal/Remington-Savage Firearms: Jerry is the Senior Category Manager with Vista Outdoor, where he manages the replacement and management of ammunition, guns, and accessories. Jerry was the Big Tom Award winner in 2024.

Bee Frederick - Safari Club International: Mr. Frederick serves as the State and Local Liaison at Safari Club International. He has a background in public relations, where he managed strategic communications, media relations, grassroots engagement, coalition building, and public affairs for various clients. Previously, he spent seven years as the Southeastern States Director for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. He also worked as a campaign manager for a statewide constitutional amendment that reauthorized Alabama's public land program, as well as for several state legislative campaigns in Alabama. Mr. Frederick has experience on Capitol Hill, having worked for former U.S. Congressman Spencer Bachus. A graduate of Samford University, he and his wife currently reside in Birmingham, AL. Outside of work, he enjoys playing tennis and is a passionate conservationist. He particularly enjoys pursuing wild turkeys, upland hunting with his Small Munsterlander, and managing family property in lower Alabama.

Brittany French – Outdoor Mentors: Ms. Brittany French is the CEO of Pass It On Outdoor Mentors. Born and raised in Dodge City, Kansas, she developed a passion for the outdoors at a young age. With over ten years of experience in the non-profit sector, Brittany's commitment to serving her community is evident. She attended Friends University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and Sociology while also playing softball for the Falcons. Brittany then pursued a master's degree in Sociology from Wichita State University. Her journey with Outdoor Mentors began in 2015 when she volunteered as a mentor. She became a full-time member of the organization in 2019. Currently, Brittany lives in Wichita, Kansas, with her husband and daughter. As an avid outdoorswoman, she believes it is our responsibility to support the youth in our community who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the outdoors. Brittany is dedicated to making a generational impact through collective efforts in this mission.

Scott Heinen - Heinen Brothers Agra Services: Mr. Heinen is the Chief Executive Officer of Heinen Brothers Agra Services, a full-service company that specializes in aerial applications, agronomy, agricultural retail, and trucking. Headquartered in Kansas, the company operates across 11 states. Raised on a 700-acre farm, Mr. Heinen and his siblings are dedicated to continuing the agricultural legacy of their upbringing. He graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Aviation Sciences and currently resides in Seneca, Kansas, with his family.

Kelly Herzet—Butler County Commission: Kelly was elected as the Butler County Commissioner for District 3 in 2020. Before his election, he worked for thirty-three years at the Butler County Sheriff's Office before retiring. In 2014, Kelly graduated from Leadership Butler and has also served as president of both Flinthills Services and Tri-County CASA.

Chris Hodgdon - Hodgdon Powder: Chris worked at Hodgdon Powder for 26 years, holding various positions throughout his career, including roles in media, public relations, and sales. After retiring in 2019, he joined the board of directors at Hodgdon. Although he is no longer involved in the day-to-day operations, he remains active in the company founded by his grandfather.

Ron Jolly - Turkeys for Tomorrow: Ron Jolly lives in east-central Alabama and has been hunting turkeys for sixty years. He is one of the founding members of TFT and has held a leadership position on the Board of Directors. In addition, he is an award-winning author, as well as a producer of videos and television shows. He is also a member of the Grand National Hall of Fame of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Tim Keenan-Sand Hill Crane Hunt: Timothy R. Keenan was born in Fort Riley, Kansas. He graduated from Great Bend High School and earned a business finance degree with honors from Fort Hays State University in 1979. In 1982, he graduated cum laude with his law degree from Washburn University. Tim serves on the Kansas Professional Ethics Grievance Committee and is the President of the Barton County Bar Association. He has also held the position of City Councilman in Great Bend and served as a board member of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. His areas of practice include oil and gas law, real estate, business litigation, agriculture, and water law.

Kris Kobach – KS Attorney General: Kris Kobach began his career as a law clerk for the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals before becoming a professor of constitutional law at the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law. He was awarded a White House Fellowship by President George W. Bush and served as Counsel to the Attorney General in the United States Department of Justice under Attorney General John Ashcroft. From 2011 to 2019, Kris held the position of Kansas Secretary of State. In addition to his professional achievements, he is passionate about hunting and was the recipient of the Big Tom Award in the inaugural year of the hunt in 2023.

Jason Lupardus - Turkeys for Tomorrow: Jason Lupardus is the CEO of Turkeys for Tomorrow (TFT), bringing nearly 20 years of experience in conservation. His background includes work in a state agency, various non-profit organizations, and the corporate sector. A passionate conservationist, Jason has a profound love for the outdoors, especially for wild turkeys. He holds both a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and a Master of Science (M.S.) in wildlife management and forestry from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Jason is also a certified wildlife biologist and the owner of Wildlife and Land Management Group, LLC. He resides in Alvaton, Kentucky, with his wife and two daughters.

Kevin Moss – Leadership Consultant: Kevin Moss served as the Executive General Manager of Chick-fil-A Restaurants from September 1996 until his retirement in July 2023. He is currently the President of the Past Shooters Council Grand National Waterfowl Hunt in Maryland. Now, he works as a leadership consultant and resides in Georgia.

Kari O'Riley - Harper County Community Development: In February 2023, Kari O'Riley became the Community Development Director for Harper County. She graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences, focusing on Tourism Management. Additionally, she earned a Professional Event Management Certificate (PEMC). Kari has effectively worked with local downtown businesses and organizations to strengthen the local business presence, promote community engagement, and foster economic growth in the region, resulting in increased commerce.

Brandon O'Riley – USDA-NRCS: Brandon O'Riley was born in Maryville, Missouri, and grew up on a horse ranch in Hutto, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. In November 2022, he moved to Anthony, Kansas, where he became the District Conservationist for Harper County. Brandon has been with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for over 15 years, working with farmers, ranchers, and landowners to protect and conserve natural resources through technical assistance and financial support. His passion for agriculture and wildlife allows me to help people see how these two areas can benefit each other.

David Owen - Golden Waves Grain: Dave Owen is the former owner and CEO of two banks in the Kansas City area, as well as the founder of a publicly traded technology company listed on NASDAQ. He previously served as a Regional Manager for Stephens Inc., a prominent off-Wall Street investment bank based in Little Rock, Arkansas. Currently, he is engaged in commercial real estate sales and investment through his company, Equivest, LLC. Dave has also served as a Kansas State Senator and Lieutenant Governor. He was the campaign chairman for U.S. Senator Bob Dole's Senate and presidential campaigns. An athlete at Ottawa University, he was inducted into the basketball hall of fame and later competed as a professional rodeo cowboy in PRCA events.

Charity Pulliam - 2025 Miss Kansas Rodeo: Miss Rodeo Kansas 2025, Charity Rose Pulliam, hails from Arkansas City, Kansas. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, majoring in Agricultural Communications and minoring in Animal Sciences. During her time at OSU, Charity actively participated in the OSU Paddle People and the Collegiate Reined Cow Horse Judging Team. After graduation, she moved to the Sunflower State and currently works as a rodeo and western lifestyle journalist. In her spare time, Charity is also pursuing a PRCA Music Director card.

Kelsey Puryear – Murray Road Agency – TrueTimber: Kelsey Puryear is an accomplished professional with a dedicated career in the agency world. As the Chief Operations Officer at Murray Road Agency, she has extensive experience in integrated account support and management.

Beyond her professional achievements, Kelsey's passion for shooting sports has significantly shaped her life. Her journey began in childhood when she accompanied her father to the shooting range, where she discovered her love for trap shooting. Over the years, her enthusiasm for shooting sports has expanded to include big game hunting, turkey hunting, and upland hunting. Kelsey channels this passion into her work at Murray Road Agency.

Kelsey lives in Fayetteville, North Carolina, with her husband, Davis, and their two children, Griffith and Morgan. She embodies a unique blend of professional expertise, a fervent passion for shooting sports, and a commitment to her community, making her a standout leader in her field.

Michael Schwanke - KWCH News: Michael anchors Eyewitness News at 5:00, 6:00, 6:30, and 10:00 PM. He is also a FactFinder 12 Investigator. Mr. Schwanke began his broadcasting career in Dodge City and joined KWCH in Wichita in December 2000 as a general assignment reporter. He is a two-time Emmy Award winner and has received various accolades, including the national Edward R. Murrow Award for his continuing coverage of the Carr brothers' murder trial. Additionally, he has two regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for his investigative reporting, as well as for his work showcasing the Wichita Children's Home. Schwanke graduated from Fort Hays State University. When he's not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Tenille, and their two daughters. He also likes gardening and spending time at the lake with his family.

Cape Taylor - Cumberland City, TN: Cape has hunted in Kansas for many years and comes to Kansas from Cumberland City, Tennessee.

Lt Governor David Toland – Secretary Dept of Commerce: David Toland is the 52nd Lieutenant Governor of Kansas and serves as the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce. As a seventh-generation Kansan, Toland was appointed Secretary of Commerce by Governor Laura Kelly in January 2019 and became Lieutenant Governor in January 2021. In his role as Secretary of Commerce, Toland has spearheaded Governor Kelly's initiatives to revitalize the state's economy, overseeing a comprehensive overhaul of the Kansas Department of Commerce. He has considerable experience in both urban and rural economic development, having worked at the local level in Washington D.C. and in his hometown of Allen County, Kansas. Toland earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kansas.

Rodney Turner –MGT Consulting Group: Rodney is the President and CEO of Layer 3 Communications and currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Technology Solutions. He co-founded the company with Josh Bailey in 1998. Under his leadership, Layer 3 Communications has become a prominent regional systems integrator, employing over 100 people and operating offices throughout the southeastern United States and Texas. Rodney began his career in technology business development in 1988, working with various systems integrators, including Avnet Computer and Data Processing Sciences. He also held business development roles with Bay Networks and Nortel Networks before co-founding Layer 3 Communications. Currently, Rodney is active in several industry advisory councils and is widely regarded as an innovative thought leader in the technology field. He is a graduate of Clemson University and has three children. In his free time, Rodney enjoys hunting, snowboarding, tennis, and golf.

Griffin Turner – MGT: Griffin is employed as the Territory Sales Representative for MGT.

Chris Tymeson - Safari Club International: Chris Tymeson joins SCI after more than twenty years of service as Chief Legal Counsel for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Prior to that, he served his country as an airborne infantryman in the U.S. Army, participating in missions in Panama and Iraq as part of the 101st Airborne Division. Currently, Chris supports the outdoor sporting community by working as a hunter education instructor and actively recruiting youth and newcomers to hunting. He is an enthusiastic hunter and angler, having pursued these activities in most western states, several eastern states, various Canadian provinces, as well as in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Chris graduated from Missouri Southern State College and the Washburn University School of Law. He resides with his family in Overland Park, Kansas.

Craig Wall –MGT Consulting Group: Craig Wall has been with Layer 3 Communications since 2004 and is the founder of the Western Region. As the Vice President and General Manager of this region, he is responsible for implementing the company's mission in the Western Region. Additionally, Craig plays a key role in developing the company's broader goals, objectives, and mission.

Ryan Wills—Special Assistant to Lt. Governor Toland: Ryan Wills serves as the Special Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce, David Toland. Prior to this role, he was the Manager of Constituent Services and Hospitality Industry Liaison at the Kansas Department of Commerce. Wills also worked as a project coordinator on the Back to Business Team, where he helped administer Small Business Working Capital Grants. Before joining the Department of Commerce, he held various management positions in the hospitality, restaurant, and music industries.

Jen Yarbrough - TrueTimber: Jenn Yarbrough is a devoted wife, mother, and outdoorswoman hailing from the majestic Sierra Nevada mountains and currently residing in Kansas, known for its giant whitetail deer. She enjoys hunting whatever is in season, and you can count on her to cook her harvests. On any given day, you might find her outside, preparing her land for deer season or simply soaking up the sunshine. An accomplished hunter, Jenn holds five world records for underwater spearfishing, has taken multiple Pope and Young bucks, and has completed her NWTF Grand Slam. She is also a passionate archer who hosts ladies' night archery events to cultivate and educate a community of female archers in Northeast Kansas. Together with her husband and son, Jenn enjoys producing content for some of the biggest names in the outdoor industry, all while inspiring the next generation of hunters.

American Hero Bios

Brian Arterburn: Brian Arterburn began his law enforcement career with the Wichita Police Department in 1992. On February 7, 2017, Officer Arterburn was tragically injured in the line of duty during a vehicle chase and left unconscious with life-threatening injuries. His recovery spanned many years, taking him to three different recovery centers and finally returning home at the end of October 2024. The recovery at home was difficult as Arterburn's brain injury made it tough for him to grasp he would never put a uniform on again. As time went by, he started to understand that his disabilities were what kept him from returning. Despite what the doctors said, he can now do many things and enjoy many activities today that they never thought possible.

Adiel Garcia - Johnson County Department of Emergency Communications: Adiel Garcia started his career in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as a combat medic in the U.S. Army. Adiel served in duty stations and deployments in Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and [Fort Sam Houston] Texas. After separating from the military, Adiel concurrently worked as a paramedic and enrolled in school, later becoming an educator. For almost a decade, he taught paramedic and healthcare courses in community colleges and high schools in south Texas. Currently, Adiel continues teaching part-time as an adjunct Assistant Professor in the EMS Program at a local community college and is the Division Chief of Education & Integrated Healthcare in Johnson County MED-ACT. Adiel is fluent in Spanish and considers his hobby to be international EMS development, mostly in Latin America, and has written several training manuals and designed, developed, and deployed many continuing medical education courses. Throughout the last couple of decades, Adiel has been invited to 15 countries to speak at conferences and/or teach on EMS-related topics. Adiel continues learning and is currently enrolled in a Doctorate of Education program and expects to defend his dissertation within the next year.

Mark Nutsch - Horse Soldier Bourbon co-founder/Swords of Lightning co-author: Mark Nutsch served in the Army as a Ranger Regiment and Special Forces officer, deploying on multiple combat tours. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, he led ODA-595, one of the first Special Forces teams into northern Afghanistan. There, he and his team advised the resistance leadership, helping to unite the disparate militia forces against the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Riding on horseback much of the time, Nutsch and their combined inter-agency team spearheaded the unconventional warfare operations that liberated the northern provinces of the country and are considered the catalyst for toppling the Taliban regime. Featured in multiple books, including *Swords of Lightning*, co-authored with his teammates; the Hollywood film, *12 Strong*, and documentary film *Legion of Brothers*. Nutsch is a sought-after speaker, lecturing often about his unique leadership experiences and their rapid Horse Soldier Bourbon business growth. He is actively involved in coordinating resources and support in the US and abroad, for his team's Afghan allies and their families, who stood beside our Special Forces and America in its darkest hours after 9/11.

Youth Hunter Bios

Elizabeth Dalton is a 14-year-old student at Oswego Junior/Senior High School with a strong passion for hunting and outdoors. She enjoys hunting deer, goose, duck, rabbit, and squirrel with her dad and is eager to expand her skills. Elizabeth is especially looking forward to learning more about the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt and the rich hunting heritage that connects generations. She values the importance of keeping this tradition alive, recognizing that hunting is not only a sport but also a way to honor and preserve a shared legacy outdoors.

Noah Pope is a 16-year-old homeschool student from the El Dorado area with a growing passion for hunting. Unlike many, he does not come from a family with a hunting background. Instead, in 2024, he and his mom decided to explore hunting together to provide sustainable food for their family while also contributing to responsible wildlife conservation. For Noah, being a hunter is about more than just the pursuit; it means practicing safety, ethics, and respect for nature.

Jayvin Shrewsbury is a 13-year-old student from Meade, Kansas, with a strong passion for the outdoors. An avid hunter, he pursues deer, pheasant, quail, and turkey. His older brother has played a significant role in introducing him to hunting, guiding him through experiences with deer, turkey, dove, pheasant, and quail. In addition to hunting, Jayvin enjoys shooting trap and spending time in nature. For him, hunting is more than just a sport—it's a meaningful way to connect with his brother and uncle, creating lasting memories and strengthening family bonds in the great outdoors.

Creighton Van Vleck is a 14-year-old student at Rossville Jr./Sr. High School with a deep appreciation for the outdoors. An enthusiastic hunter, he pursues deer, turkey, and rabbits. His passion for hunting began during the COVID-19 pandemic when he was looking for a way to spend more time outside. After watching turkey hunting videos on YouTube, he became intrigued and decided to give it a try. In the process, he introduced his dad to hunting, turning it into a shared experience they both enjoy. For Creighton, hunting is more than just a sport—it's a way to spend quality time with family, enjoy the peacefulness of nature, and create lasting memories in the great outdoors.

Abrianna Weis is a 15-year-old student at Goodland High School with a strong passion for the outdoors. An avid hunter, she has experience pursuing deer, doves, and ducks and is now preparing for her first turkey hunt. Hunting and fishing have always been special activities for Abrianna, as they provide meaningful time spent with her dad, strengthening their bond while enjoying nature. She looks forward to expanding her skills and taking on new challenges in the field.