



2024 Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt Hunter Bios

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 launched American Arms in the 1980s. He thought he would leave the firearms business for a while when he sold the company. In 2003, former AA employees approached him to run their business, TriStar Arms. Bader took over part ownership of TriStar Arms in 2005 and is turning over the Presidency to his son, Ryan. Gus is a founding sponsor and Board Member for the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt and provides the Top Gun for the winning hunter.

Ryan Bader – TriStar: Ryan is the President of TriStar Arms. He is married with two kids, ages 7 and 8. He enjoys hunting, golfing, and skiing and loves the mountains and the beach, but Kansas will always be home. Ryan and his wife are active in coaching youth sports and are active church members.

Tyler Batson – YOUTH: Tyler is 16, from Leon Kansas. He has only been hunting a few times and never turkey hunting, so he is excited to gain experience. In the few times he has been hunting, he had a blast. Tyler went on a duck hunt recently with my school's trap team, and that really made him want to hunt even more. He believes hunting is an important way to reconnect with nature and get away from technology. It also helps keep populations from overgrowing.

Joe Bisogno – Goodcents and Timber Hills: Joe Bisogno (pronounced bezone) founded Goodcents Deli Fresh Subs in 1989 after many years with the McDonald's Corporation. There are now over 70 franchised locations across the country. He began the Goodcents Foundation and supports several other organizations. Joe is a founding sponsor and Board Member for the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt.

Eric Burton—National Wild Turkey Federation: Eric is the National Wild Turkey Federation's Inventory Control and Firearms Specialist. He resides in Trenton, SC.

Mike Christensen – Pass It On Outdoor Mentors: Mike was hired by Big Brothers Big Sisters as the director of the outdoor mentoring program in 2002. By 2006, this program spun off into a 501c3 organization called Pass It On, recruiting mentors to spend time with youth hunting and fishing. Mike grew up in Western Kansas and now he and his wife make their home in Wichita, Kansas.

Dr. Pat Do – Mid America Orthopedics: Dr. Pat Do is the founder of Mid America Orthopedics with locations in Wichita and Dodge City. He specializes in arthroscopic shoulder and knee surgery. Dr. Do is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and is board-certified with the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.



Gerald Fitzner—Vista Outdoor-Federal: Jerry is the Senior Category Manager with Vista Outdoor, where he manages the replacement and management of ammunition, guns, and accessories.

Amanda Garrett – WildHERness: Amanda was born and raised in a little farming community in rural eastern Kansas. Growing up, she loved to tag along hunting and fishing with her dad. She has had a love of the outdoors and God's amazing creations for as long as she can remember. When Amanda met her husband, he added fuel to the fire, and they continued to adventure in nature together with their kids. A few of her favorite activities are upland hunting, homesteading, horseback riding, and trapping. When she met the gals of WildHERness, she knew she had found that little missing link she had been craving. Exploring the outdoors with women who were welcoming, encouraging, and supportive was a game changer. Amanda has forged new friendships that will last a lifetime, gained new skills and knowledge, and found a new passion for making other women feel confident and capable in exploring their own wild. She so looks forward to getting to know you all!

Rory Hawk – YOUTH: From Kansas City, Kansas, Rory is 17. She started hunting with her father at age six. Those first years were focused on learning, and she never harvested an animal successfully until she went turkey hunting for the first time. The first hunt was unsuccessful, but the next time she went out she was blessed with harvesting a wild turkey. Since that hunt, she has participated in other turkey hunts, deer hunts, and upland bird hunts, many of which were through Outdoor Mentors. Rory found a love for the outdoors through hunting, which led her to pursue a degree in wildlife biology and ecology next fall. Through her hunting experiences, she has found more joy in preserving habitats and meeting other hunters than in having harvested an animal. Hunting is more about the knowledge and appreciation for wildlife than it is about the harvest. It is truly amazing to see others in his community find joy in this sport that she loves. Hunting is vital to conservation so that future generations can enjoy the outdoors as much as she has.

Kelly Herzet—Butler County Commission: Kelly has served as a Butler County Commissioner for District 3 since his election in 2020. He retired from the Butler County Sheriff's office after thirty-three years with that organization. He graduated from Leadership Butler in 2014 and has served as president of Flinthills Services and Tri-County CASA.

John Huse – Vista Outdoor-Federal: John is the National Account Manager for Vista Outdoors. He comes to us from Bentonville, AR.

Tim Keenan-Sand Hill Crane Hunt: Timothy R. Keenan was born at Fort Riley, Kansas and graduated from Great Bend High School. He received a business finance degree from Fort Hays State University (B.S. 1979 with honors). Tim then received his law degree at Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas (J.D., Cum Laude 1982). Tim serves on the Kansas Professional Ethics Grievance Committee and is the current Barton County Bar Association President. He is also a Twentieth Judicial District Bench and Bar Committee member. Tim is a former Great Bend City Councilman and Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Board Member. He concentrates his practice on oil and gas, real estate, business litigation, agricultural and water law.



Jackson Kirker—YOUTH NWTF NATIONAL CALLING CONTEST: Jackson was drawn to participate in the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt at the NWTF Convention in February. He placed 3rd Runner-up in the Grand National Calling Contest Intermediate Division Championship. He comes to Kansas from Searcy, Arkansas.

Kris Kobach – KS Attorney General: Kris clerked for the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and shortly thereafter became a professor of constitutional law at the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law. Kobach received a White House Fellowship from President George W. Bush. He served in the United States Department of Justice under Attorney General John Ashcroft as Counsel to the Attorney General. Kris also served as the Kansas Secretary of State from 2011 to 2019. Kris is also an avid hunter.

Makynlee Kott – YOUTH: - Makynlee is 12 from Garden City, Kansas. Her dad learned how to hunt with his dad, and her dad learned to love the outdoors and to hunt. He started to take Makynlee's brother out hunting, and she really wanted to try, so he let her come with him one time when he was whitetail hunting, and she loved it. To be a hunter means to feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. Yes, she thinks hunting is important because it teaches many lifelong skills and is also a way to provide healthy food.

Augustine Kroupa – YOUTH: From Kechi, Kansas, Augustine is age 13. He has had hunter's ed for 2 years but since no one in his immediate family hunts, he hasn't had an opportunity to learn. He is in the Boy Scouts and loves camping and doing anything outdoors and wildlife. Augustine wants to learn how to stalk a turkey, lure it in, and prepare himself for the hunt so that it is successful. Learning how to field dress a turkey would also be helpful because he would love to try cooking the meat he hunted.

J Bryan Lewis—Bryan Lewis Law: From Nashville, TN, Bryan Lewis, Esq., has been practicing civil and criminal law throughout Tennessee for more than 30 years. He understands that the practice of law is a learning experience and requires constant study, which he does enthusiastically. Bryan is a founding sponsor of the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt and is sponsoring the Strutter Banquet event for 2023.

Kyle Mellard – Wichita Police Dept-AMERICAN HEROES: Kyle is 32 years old and was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. He is married to his best friend and wife, Shelby, and they have three beautiful daughters: Clarke (4), Spencer (3), and Theo (1). Kyle is a Police Officer for the Wichita Police Department for the City of Wichita, Kansas, serving since 2016. Currently, he is assigned to the K-9 unit and partnered with PSD Bear. In June 2021, Kyle was shot in the line of duty while responding to the aid of officers who were ambushed by an armed subject. He was shot in the head and both legs. After several surgeries, weeks in the hospital and months of physical therapy, he would return to light duty in May of 2022 and then to full-time duty in December of 2022. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family.

Tharon Mott—Emporia EMT—Firefighter—American Heroes: Tharon started volunteering in the Fire Service when he was 16 and in high school. While in school, he started taking Firefighter classes through Hutchinson Community College. After graduating high school, Tharon attended Hutchinson Community College and received his associate degree in Fire Science, and he also obtained his EMT at the same time. After completing college, he became the Volunteer Fire Chief of the North Lyon County Fire District # 2, a position he still holds



today. He started his dream job as a FF/EMT for the Emporia Fire Department in 2018, where he gets to serve his community and county daily! On December 12th, 2021, Tharon responded to an apartment fire in Emporia with his volunteer fire department. After arriving at the fire, he was directed to bust open a window on the 3rd floor from a ladder. While he was on top of the ladder, the roof collapsed, falling on him and knocking him off the ladder. Tharon had fallen three stories and had part of the roof land on him. He was knocked unconscious and taken to the hospital. He had several injuries due to the accident. He broke his left clavicle and broke six ribs on his left side. He punctured his left lung and suffered burns to his head and face, as well as a laceration to the back of his head. Tharon spent a week up at Stormont Vail Hospital being treated and had surgery to repair his clavicle. After returning home from the hospital, he spent three months recovering, with the help of his wife, from my injuries. He was fortunate to fully recover and return to his job, where he still enjoys serving my community.

Jarrod Nichols—Verge Technologies, Founder/President: Jarrod serves as the Chairman for the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt Board of Directors and was instrumental in coordinating this year's hunt. Previously he led the Smartphone Application & Technology Initiative at Vista Outdoor/Bushnell. Recently he founded Verge Technologies, a consulting and electronics firm that specializes in connecting our technologies with the outdoors.

Trent Payne – Pulaski, Tennessee: Born and raised in Tennessee. He is a Project Manager/Estimator for a General Contracting company. Trent is a former All American and College Athlete for shotgun shooting sports. He been a Guide for the Tennessee Governors One Shot Turkey Hunt for 8 years with multiple hunters placing in the top 3. When not working or hunting you will catch him with his Chesapeake Bay Retriever named River working on hunting properties for the upcoming seasons or spending time with family and friends most likely on the Tennessee River.

Barrett Pianto—YOUTH: Barrett is a 7th grader at Hays Middle School where he is on the honor roll. He also plays on the Hays Middle School football team as linebacker. Barrett is an avid outdoorsman who likes hunting, fishing, and camping with my friends and family. He's a member of the Good Hope 4-H club, where he plans on showing a market steer, a breeding heifer, and meat goats this year at the fair. He also participates in 4-H shooting sports where he has competed in archery and shotgun. Lastly but most importantly he has a sister named Cydney who is 9 that he likes teaching about the outdoors and helping her with her show animals. Barrett's mother Andrea and father Dominic have always supported him and encourages his love for the outdoors and raising animals.

Kelsey Puryear – MurrayRoad Agency – TrueTimber: Kelsey Puryear is an accomplished professional who has dedicated her career to the agency world. As the Chief Operations Officer at Murray Road Agency, she possesses extensive experience in integrated account support and management. Beyond her professional achievements, Kelsey's passion for shooting sports has played a pivotal role in her life. Her journey began as a child, accompanying her father to the shooting range, where she discovered her love for trap shooting. Over the years, her enthusiasm for shooting sports has grown to encompass big game, turkey and upland hunting. Kelsey channels this passion to enhance her contributions at the Murray Road



Agency. Kelsey, her husband Davis, and their two children, Griffith and Morgan, reside in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Kelsey Puryear embodies a unique blend of professional acumen, a fervent passion for shooting sports, and a dedication to her community, making her a standout leader in her field.

Matt Ray – Ray Properties: Matt comes from Jacksonville NC and owns Ray Properties, a commercial and residential company with a “benchmark reputation based on client relationships”.

Daniel Shields – Butler County Paramedic – American Heroes: Daniel joined the United States Army as a Junior in high school at the age of 17. Being a member of the military was something that he wanted to do from a very young age so as soon as he was able to join he made it happen. Daniel went to basic combat training during the summer between his Junior and Senior years of high school. Upon graduation in August of 2003 he returned for his Senior year of high school. Upon graduating high school, he left again and completed his Advanced Individual Training and completed in July of 2004. From there, he worked various jobs while attending monthly drills for the Army. In December of 2005, he was one of five individuals from his unit in Wichita to be sent to Lincoln, NE, for pre-mobilization training for deployment to Iraq. Part of his pre-mobilization training in Lincoln consisted of a 40-hour combat lifesaver class. This class was essentially an advanced first aid class in the event of a combat casualty. Daniel believes that this class was what spawned his interest in EMS. In February of 2006, he was the sole individual from his unit to be sent to Iraq with the unit from Lincoln. He spent thirteen months in Iraq and returned in March of 2007. Daniel returned to the civilian workforce again but always felt something was missing. He and his fiancé were married in 2008, and soon after, he was again selected for his second deployment, this time to Kuwait. During both of his deployments, he was tasked with convoy security and, as a result, unfortunately, witnessed the horrors of combat not only on his fellow soldiers but also on himself. During his second deployment in 2009 he was out on a mission in Iraq and became victim to an IED known as an explosively formed projectile, or EFP. These specific types of IEDs are known for their catastrophic damage to military vehicles and personnel. He and the two other soldiers in the vehicle were injured with his Truck Commander (TC) sustaining the most severe injuries of the three. Daniel’s training and instincts immediately kicked in, and he was able to pull his TC from the vehicle and to a safer location until further help arrived. While waiting for our medic to arrive, he began assessing his TC’s injuries and preparing him for further treatment. Daniel was awarded the Purple Heart Medal in Kuwait and remained there until our time was finished. He returned home in February of 2010 and again, attempted to find his way in the civilian workforce. While trying to find his way in life he seemed to go from job to job, in and out of school, changing majors, but never really finding a true passion. He decided to go to EMT school and that was probably one of the best decisions he could have made. While life got in the way for a bit, with a new wife and having three beautiful children Daniel was finally able to continue following his dream of becoming a Paramedic. He started Paramedic school on August of 2018 and completed the arduous program in December of 2019 and he has never looked back. Daniel absolutely loves what he does and wishes he would have started this journey much sooner. His time in the Army, especially during his two combat deployments, not only spawned an early interest but also well-prepared him for his career in EMS.

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

Bryce Todd – TrueTimber Camo: Bryce is the Account Manager of Hard Goods with True Timber Camo and comes to us from Boiling Springs, SC



Lt Governor David Toland – Secretary Dept of Commerce: David Toland serves as Kansas 52nd Lt. Governor and the Secretary for the Kansas Dept of Commerce. A seventh-generation Kansan, Toland was appointed Secretary of Commerce by Governor Laura Kelly in January 2019 and Lieutenant Governor in January 2021. As Secretary of Commerce Toland has led Governor Kelly’s efforts to transform the state’s economy, directing a top-to-bottom overhaul of the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Jon Tremblay – Media Manager-Walton’s Inc: Jon is the Media Manager of Waltons Inc – “Everything but the Meat”. Jon is featured on their blog – how to’s, FAQ’s and more.

Rodney Turner – President CEO Layer 3 Communications: Rodney Turner is the President CEO of Layer 3 Communications, co-founding the company in 1998. He grown to be a significant regional systems integrator with over 100 employees and offices throughout the southeast and Texas.

Griffin Turner – Territory Sales Rep Layer 3 Communications: Griffin is employed as the Territory Sales Representative for Layer 3 Communications, a company out of Atlanta, Georgia.

Craig Wall – Director of Sales Layer 3 Communications: Craig joined Layer 3 Communications in 2004 and founded the Western Region. As Vice President and General Manager of the Western Region, Craig is responsible for executing the mission of Layer 3 Communications in the Western Region and contributes in developing our company wide goals, objectives and mission.

Ali Walton –

Ryan Wills—Special Assistant to Lt. Governor Toland: Ryan Wills is the Special Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce, David Toland. Wills previously served as the Manager of Constituent Services and Hospitality Industry Liaison for the Kansas Department of Commerce. He was also a project coordinator on the Back to Business Team, where he helped administer Small Business Working Capital Grants. Before Commerce, Wills held various management roles within the hospitality, restaurant, and music industries.