The Gobbler

KANSAS 1SHOT TURKEY HUNT
EL DORADO, KANSAS

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS ONE SHOT TURKEY HUNT

Where tradition, community, and conservation come together

November/December 2026

THANKFUL FOR A GREAT 2026



As we near the end of 2026, the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers are grateful for our partners, sponsors, hunters, guides and landowners who continue to make this organization successful in meeting the mission and vision.

Our wish for you is to end the year on a great note!

We are thankful for you and your continued support!

HUNT DATES ARE SET...

The 2027 Hunt dates are set for April 15-17, 2027! Invitations have been mailed or emailed. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

KOSTH HIRES ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The KOSTH Board of Directors and Becky Wolfe-Hunt Coordinator want to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Brooke Burden. Brooke and her husband, Cade along with their beautiful daughter live in rural Leon. She has an Ag Degree and is also serving as the Greenwood County Farm Bureau director. We are excited to have Brooke on board.

The Board would also like to say a big THANK YOU to Megan Smith of G2 Solutions. Megan helped with events for the hunt for two years. Her family is becoming more active and she has determined to devote her energy to that. While we will definitely miss her, it is understandable. Thanks again, Megan. We appreciate you!



Brooke Burden



Megan Smith

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

It is an exciting year for the Hunt as we celebrate 5 years since re-organization and 40 years of the Hunt's tradition in Kansas. How can YOU help make 2027 unforgettable?

We would love to see your favorite memories from years past. Please share your photos by emailing us as at info@kansasoneshotturkeyhunt.org, uploading them to our google photos album using this link Google Photos Album, or scanning the QR code:



Circa 1996/1997 Former Governor Mike Hayden, Judy McCown, Neil Buckman and John Stude.

KOSTH Youth Program Applications Open December 11th

Know a young hunter ready to take their skills to the next level and connect with peers from across Kansas?

Every year, the KOSTH Youth Program selects five standout youth hunters to experience the excitement of our main event firsthand!

Open to Kansas youth ages 12 to 18, our selection committee will choose one representative from each of the four state sectors, plus one dedicated spot for a young hunter from Butler County.

Applications open December 11th! Visit the Youth section on our Programs Page to learn more and submit an application.



Expanding the Lineup: More Vendors Coming to the Hunt.

Big news for 2027—KOSTH is expanding our vendor booths! After two great years of informational setups, we're thrilled to welcome even more vendors to the Butler County Community Building. Make plans to stop by Friday and Saturday to shop, mingle, and enjoy lunch with the crowd!

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Passing the Torch: Why Introducing Youth to Hunting Matters More Than Ever

Every experienced hunter remembers their first time in the woods or out on the field before the sun comes up. It might not be the most memorable harvest, but it is most likely about the anticipation of the hunt and that special person sitting beside you in the blind, whispering soft encouragement. You know the one. That one who took the time to show you the ropes and provide you with so many lessons in the field.

Today, passing down that tradition is an essential part to the survival of our outdoor way of life and the conservation efforts that sustain it.

Building Stewards of the Land

At the core, ethical hunting practices will teach young people a deep, firsthand respect for nature that cannot be learned from a screen or a book. When young people spend time in the field, they learn how ecosystems work, how to read the weather and the terrain, and why it all matters for wildlife habitat.

As we mentor young hunters, we are raising informed, active stewards who will protect wildlife populations and the habitat for years to come. Hunters are the backbone of wildlife conservation in America and they fund most wildlife agencies, habitat and public land access.

Lessons That Reach Beyond the Field

Taking a youth hunting builds character traits that will serve them in many ways:

- **Safety and Responsibility:** Handling a firearm or bow demands focus, discipline, and accountability. Learning strict safety protocols early builds a long respect for tools and personal responsibility.
- **Patience and Resilience:** Hunting rarely offers instant gratification. Sitting quiet and still through cold mornings or walking miles without seeing a thing teaches patience, keeping a cool head, and how to handle disappointment.
- **Connection to Food**: Understanding where food comes from—and the effort, gratitude, and ethics involved in harvesting it—gives young people a grounded perspective on self-reliance



How You Can Get Involved

You don't need to own hundreds of acres or be an expert shot to make a difference. Introducing a young person to the outdoors can start with simple steps:

- Start Small and Keep It Fun: Focus on the experience rather than the harvest. Short trips, plenty of snacks, and low-pressure target practice keep young beginners engaged and eager to learn.
- Invite Someone New: If you don't have children or grandchildren of hunting age, offer to mentor a niece, nephew, neighbor, or family friend who may not have the opportunity or resources to hunt.
- Support Youth Programs: Volunteer as a mentor at local youth hunts, assist with Hunter Education courses, or support organizations dedicated to creating accessible first-time field experiences.

Our hunting heritage only survives if we actively share it. This season, make room in your blind, slow your pace on the trail, and pass along the knowledge someone once shared with you. The future of the outdoors depends on who we bring along today.

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Volunteer Opportunities

With a large event such as the KOSTH, there is always a need for people to volunteer at the varied locations. This is an opportunity to meet some amazing people! How can you help?

- Help set up Silent Auction at 4-H Building (Thursday morning)
- Help decorate tables at 4-H Building - (Thursday morning)
- Help decorate tables at Civic Center (Thursday, mid morning)
- Sell game tickets, chances at the Opening Ceremonies - Civic Center (Thursday evening)
- Greeters - Opening Ceremonies
- Take tickets and money at community luncheons-4-H Building (Friday & Saturday).
- Sell game tickets, chances at 4-H Building (Friday evening)
- Take/sell tickets and hand out bid numbers at Banquet at BCC (Saturday evening)
- Sell game tickets, chances at Banquet (Saturday evening)
- Manage Silent Auction at Banquet (Saturday evening)
- Assist taking bids for Live Auction (Saturday evening)
- Cashier - Checkout

All volunteers are provided with food at the different events.

If you are interested, complete the form on our website GET INVOLVED!

Back the Tradition: 2027 Sponsorships & Auction Donations

KOSTH is gearing up for our April event, and we are thrilled to share the generous sponsors already on board for 2027! We are fortunate to have TriStar Arms returning with their continued support, alongside Hevi-Shot as our official ammunition sponsor. TrueTimber-Bass Pro will also be outfitting our Youth and American Heroes programs in full camo, and onX has generously provided memberships for our hunters and guides—a $3,500 value!

We are also grateful to the community sponsors to date, who have stepped up with their support with funds & auction items.

If you are interested in becoming a funding sponsor or have a live or silent auction item, please connect with Becky Wolfe, Hunt Coordinator.

Thoughts (but not limited to) on donated auction items:

- Guided hunts or fishing
- Hunting-Fishing Items
- Spa Day
- Cabin or Time Share getaway
- Gift Baskets



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Celebrating 40 Years of the Hunt and 5 Years for the KOSTH

In 2027, the Hunt will officially turn 40—yes, 40 years!

If those numbers sound a little confusing alongside our 5-year anniversary, here is the story behind the milestones: The Kansas Governor's Hunt originally began in 1987 under the management of the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce. It enjoyed a remarkable run until 2022, when—following the challenges of COVID—the board made the difficult decision to dissolve the organization. Unwilling to let such a rich tradition fade away, Mike Hayden and Steve Seymour brought together a dedicated group of hunters, guides, and supporters to reorganize the event and pick up right where it left off.

Today, KOSTH's mission is to honor that proud 40-year legacy while celebrating five incredible years of our new chapter.

Stay tuned for some exciting things coming during the hunt to celebrate! If anyone has any ideas on how we can celebrate, share with Becky Wolfe at becky.wolfe@kansasoneshotturkeyhunt.org. We would love to hear them.



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Information from the 2024-2025 Study

The KOSTH was a part of the study being conducted by K-State Kansas Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, the National Wild Turkey Federation and Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks in 2024 and 2025. Samples were taken from harvested birds during the events both years. We were happy to be able to assist in this study.

We were able to obtain these posters and wanted to share the findings with you.







