

# Homeschool Kansas

A Resource Guide for  
Homeschoolers  
in Kansas

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## Homeschooling Laws in Kansas

So you live in Kansas and you want to homeschool? Well, you are in a wonderful place to start homeschooling. Let me encourage you that homeschooling here is very simple. I hope that this chapter will give you the general information you need to get started homeschooling in Kansas.

### Homeschools in Kansas must name their school.

It may sound silly but one of the most important things to do in order to get started homeschooling in Kansas is to name your homeschool. It's true! In the state of Kansas homeschoolers are registered with the [department of education under non-accredited private schools](#). In order to register you need a school name. Each homeschool must [follow state requirements](#) and are considered non-accredited private schools. You will not find laws which refer directly to homeschooling as such, though it is completely legal to homeschool in Kansas. [See more about basic requirements later in this chapter.](#)

### Why name your homeschool?

- 1) **Technically, there is no homeschool law in Kansas, therefore homeschools don't officially exist.** When you refer to your homeschool outside your personal contacts, it is best to regard it as a private school. To gain the most benefits and respect from businesses and professionals, you should construct a name, and use that name for your school.
- 2) **It creates an identity, purpose, and importance for your homeschool.** Many people name their homeschools even when it's not required to. This can be beneficial for many reasons including creating a feeling being "official" and highlighting something of importance to your homeschool. We named our homeschool after [Fr. Emil Kapaun](#), a wonderful military chaplain and priest from Kansas recently awarded the MOH (Korean War) for his bravery and dedication to his fellow POW's. He has inspired us greatly. Being both Catholic and a military family we wanted to honor him and his influence on our lives so we have named our homeschool: Fr. Emil J. Kapaun Home Study School.

**Your name can be anything you want it to be.** But just to get you thinking here are a few words that may help you in naming your school:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Academy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Homeschool
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Study School
- \_\_\_\_\_ School for....Boys/Girls ( if you have all boys or girls for example)
- \_\_\_\_\_ School for....something specific you are gifted in teaching such "the Arts"
- Academy of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ of / for Learning
- Homeschool for \_\_\_\_\_
- School for \_\_\_\_\_

Now fill in the blanks with something important to you:

- A skill your homeschool focuses on
- A person's name that you admire or that has importance to your family
- Your family name
- Something biblical that inspires you: a quote, verse, or story
- Something that reflects your way of life: a military family may choose something like "International School of \_\_\_\_\_" since we live all over the world at different times

- Your religious denomination, affiliation or beliefs
- Where you live: Oceanside, Prairie View, or Mountain Top can be descriptive of your location
- A phrase that inspires you such as Harvest Moon Academy or Blooming Hearts Homeschool
- Your [homeschool method](#): \_\_\_\_\_ School of Montessori or Charlotte Mason School of \_\_\_\_\_
- A phrase that reflects the love you have for your child/children
- Play on words: Rising Sons Academy if raising all boys.
- A favorite item
- Something from an inspiring book or movie that is important to you
- Something symbolic of your purpose
- A reference to your mission/vision for your homeschool: Raising Them Right Homeschool

There is no end to what may represent you as a homeschool. For more inspiration on choosing your name you can visit an excellent post from Heather @ [Upside Down Homeschooling](#) on [How to Name Your Homeschool](#).

**\*Disclaimer-**The following is to assist you in homeschooling in Kansas. However, it is not intended as legal advice. It can be outdated and subject to change. It is up to you the instructor to be knowledgeable about Kansas laws. You should refer directly to [Kansas state statutes](#) for more information and consult professional legal advice as needed. [HSLDA](#) is a wonderful organization you can refer to. As a member you receive legal defense and at the same time support the interest of homeschoolers nationally.

[current as of 2013]

### **Homeschoolers in Kansas must meet three requirements as a non-accredited school:**

1) *Such schools must conduct their educational programs for a period of time which is “substantially equivalent” to the public school year.*

Homeschools must meet for a time equivalent with what the public school system requires. Currently in Kansas, public school classrooms must have 1,116 hours per year in grades 1-11(usually divided into 186 days of 6 hours). **Homeschools in Kansas are free to arrange the allotment of hours and are not required to schedule 6-hour days.**

2) *Teachers in such schools must be “competent.”*

This requirement is vague at best. The term “competent” is not defined in the statute, nor by case law. Competent does not equal state certified, nor does it require testing scores or minimum academic credentials. **Teacher competency is not subject to the approval of any governmental authority.**

3) *Private schools must register their existence when initially established with the Kansas Department of Education.*

This is accomplished by filing a form with the Department of Education [online](#), or by mailing it to the office in Topeka. **There is no fee to register, and annual re-registration is not required.** It is required to provide a change of address if you move.

- **There are no other requirements of homeschools in Kansas.** However, if you are removing your child from a public or private accredited school, you must inform them that your child is changing schools. Otherwise your child will be reported truant.

- **There are no regulations on standards of learning or curriculum in Kansas.** You are free to teach what you want, when you like, as long as you meet the minimum hours for the year. It is helpful to know the Kansas Department of Education's standards of learning if you plan to place your child back into public school at some point.
- **You are not obligated to notify any school district of your intent to homeschool.** You do not have to agree to teacher or student testing. You are not subject to visits or inspections. You are not required to keep annual records (though it might be in your best interest to do so, for personal and legal reasons). If any of these are imposed on you it is in your best interest to seek legal counsel.

*Portions of the above information are adapted, added to and revised [with permission from Aadel @ These Temporary Tents](#). Thank you Aadel!*

## **[Kansas Homeschool Field Trip Guide](#)**

As a military spouse, I first came to Kansas not sure I'd find all that much to do here. You can imagine my happy surprise when I soon realized that there is so much to do and explore in Kansas. In this section I am sharing with you my Kansas bucket list of the top 50 places we plan to visit in Kansas before we move. They are organized into educational categories to make it easier for you as a homeschooler to plan field trips that will fit into your homeschool program. This list is in no way complete as there are an unlimited number of educational places to visit. After all, all of life is learning! I have, however, made every attempt to include the most visited and interesting places that Kansas offers.

### **[History](#)**

#### **[Council Grove: On the Santa Fe Trail](#)**

Kansas is the perfect place to study westward expansion. A visit to Council Grove's Santa Fe Trail National Landmark is a must for your homeschool field trip list. Council Grove was a place of trade and commerce for pioneers heading west as well as a place for Indian council meetings. One such meeting place was an old oak tree named Council Oak which was an official meeting place for the Osage Indians. You may even want to use this [FREE Santa Fe Trail unit study](#). Read about the other amazing [places to see in Council Grove](#). Council Grove is included in the list of [National Historic Landmarks in Kansas](#) and is part of [The Santa Fe National Historical Trail](#) through 5 states.

\*Book recommendation for this trip: [Tree in the Trail](#) by Holling Clancy Holling

#### **Five Historic Military Forts**

Historic Ft. Hays, Ft. Riley and Ft. Leavenworth and Ft. Larned & Ft. Scott National Historic Sites are all worth seeing for their historic value. Most of these forts were established to protect the Santa Fe Trail, each in their own ways, and the pioneers on the trail heading west. Some were also outposts to protect the U.S. Mail and to keep the peace during the Civil War as well as the Plains Indians War.

- Fort Riley has [3 wonderful museums](#): Calvary Museum, 1st Infantry Museum and Custer House Museum you can visit.
- [Fort Leavenworth](#) has a beautiful Chapel of Veterans, [Frontier Museum, National Cemetery and Buffalo Soldier Monument](#) for the 10th US Calvary Regiment.
- [Fort Larned](#) has nine original stone structures and a reconstructed blockhouse. It is part of the National Park Service.
- [Fort Hays](#) protected the white settlements and the railroad.
- [Ft. Scott](#) was used to police the frontier. It played a role also in Westward Expansion, Bleeding Kansas, and the Civil War. Use this [guide to plan your homeschool field trip to Ft. Scott](#).

\*Notebooking Page recommendation for this trip: [5 Forts in Kansas with a free lesson plan](#) from [Kansas Historical Society](#).

### **Kanza Tribe and Lewis and Clark Independence Creek: Atchison**

Lewis and Clark encountered the Kanza tribe here at Independence Creek, Atchison. They found it on Independence day 1804. Each time the expedition landed here the Kanza tribe was away buffalo hunting. You can see a recreated Kanza earth lodge as well as explore the 10 mile loop hiking and biking trail along the creek.

\*Book recommendation for this trip: [The Lewis and Clark Expedition](#) by Richard L. Neuberger (Middle school and up or as a read aloud.)

### **Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site: Republic**

The remains of the Pawnee Indian earth lodge village are located here. The museum is built around the excavation remains.

### **Boot Hill Museum: Dodge City**

Exhibits and shows range from guns and saloon to buffalo and Indians. This museum looks like so much fun for visiting with your own cowboys. Or if you are in southern Kansas you might consider reserving a traveling trunk for your homeschool or co-op so that you can bring the museum to you. If that's not possible try some [free puzzles and educational games](#).

\*Unit study recommendations for this trip: [FREE Cowboy unit studies from Homeschool Share](#).

### **Kansas Museum of History: Topeka**

Museum has several interesting exhibits including John Brown's pike, Civil War battle flags, Flag from Quantrill's raid, Carry Nation's hammer, 1868 stagecoach and Santa Fe's oldest surviving locomotive, No. 132, from 1880! There is also a 2 1/2 mile nature trail you can explore. I'm looking forward to this visit.

### **Heritage Center of Dickinson County: Abilene**

The Heritage Center features three separate museums including: the Historical Museum, the Museum of Independent Telephony, and the Outdoor Museum. The historical museum and Outdoor museum centers on life on the prairie, westward expansion and pioneers and the development of towns, businesses and more. The telephony museum is just that. A collection of rare and old telephones and their development and use.

### **Little House on the Prairie Museum: Independence**

Visit the the recreation of the Little House on the Prairie on the actual site when the Ingalls lived in Kansas. Though the homestead was only there are year it has preserved the family's way of life for years to come.

\*Book recommendation for this study: What else... [Little House on the Prairie](#) by Laura Ingalls Wilder

### **Home on the Range Cabin: Athol**

The song Home on the Range is the official state song of Kansas. Come see where it originated. Dr. Brewster Higley wrote a poem in 1871 about his Kansas Homestead. It was later set to music and became known as the song Home on the Range. You can visit this small cabin where it originated.

\*Why not study a bit about American folk songs and their preservation. Book recommendation for this study: [Home on the Range: John A. Lomax and His Cowboy Songs](#). Though Lomax didn't write Home on the Range he did help preserve it and many others.

### **Osage Catholic Mission: St. Paul**

This Catholic Mission was established in 1847, four years prior to Kansas being a territory by two Jesuit Priests. Later the Sisters of Loretto joined them as they established schools for the Osage children. This mission aided the survival and financial foundation of the Osage Nation.

### **Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm: Olathe**

This is last remaining stagecoach stop open to the public on the Santa Fe Trail. Lots of fun things to do while studying 1860s farming, stagecoach operations and westward expansion. Visit with your [homeschool group](#) or on your own.

### **1930's Dust Bowl to Gas Exploration, Historic Adobe Museum: Ulysses**

Commemorates difficult times of 1930's and the successful development of natural gas and more. Photo exhibit on the [Dust Bowl](#) details dark days in Kansas. There is also a quilt display that details the important role quilts had during the Great Depression.

## Famous People

### **Fr. Emil J. Kapaun Korean War Memorial and Shrine: Pilsen**

Fr. Emil Kapaun entered the Army in 1944. In 1950 he was sent to Korea and later that year was captured and entered a prisoner of war camp. [Fr. Kapaun is remembered](#) for his self giving service to the other men in the camp. He took care of them and risked his life many times to bring them food and water. He encouraged the men, administered the sacraments and cared for their needs. [Fr. Emil Kapaun received the Medal of Honor](#) posthumously for his actions and selfless service.

\* Reading Recommendations: [The Miracle of Fr. Emil Kapaun](#). Another book you may like is [A Shepherd in Combat Boots: Chaplain Emil Kapaun of the 1st Cavalry Division](#).

### **St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park : Centerville**

#### **Her Shrine: Sacred Heart Church: Mound City**

Born in France, [St. Philippine Duchesne](#) came to America in 1818. Saint and pioneer, she found herself in charge of five struggling convents in the new world. In 1841 her order was asked to join Jesuit Priests in their work with the Potawatomi at Sugar Creek Mission. The Potawatomi Tribe had been forced to leave their home in Indiana in 1837 to cross 4 states and [finally settle in eastern Kansas at Sugar Creek](#). This evacuation is known as [The Trail of Death](#).

### **George Washington Carver: Minneapolis**

Even though George Washington Carver wasn't born in Kansas, he went to school in Minneapolis, Kansas. Known for his contributions to agriculture, he's a wonderful person to study while in Kansas. There is an exhibit on George Washington Carver at [Ottawa County Historical Museum: Minneapolis](#). This museum is small but also has several other interesting things on display including a military, dinosaur and fossil display and a Native American and Pioneer display.

\*Book recommendation: [George Washington Carver: Man's Slave Becomes God's Scientist \(Sower Series\)](#) by David Collins

### **Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum: Abilene**

Eisenhower's family moved to Kansas when we was an infant. The [Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene](#) houses exhibits that detail his life and presidency. He was the only 5 Star General to become President. You can also visit the Eisenhower family house on it's original site.

### **Amelia Earhart's birthplace museum: Atchison,**

It is housed in her grandparent's restored 1860 home. Though she tragically disappeared while attempting to make the first around the world flight, she is remembered for her many aviation flight records and accomplishments.

\*Book recommendation: [Who Was Amelia Earhart?](#) There are lots of books on her to choose from. This one I picked as an easy to read option.

### **Carrie Nation Home and Museum: Medicine Lodge**

Arrested more than 30 times one has to recognize Carry Nation. She held her place in history as a leader of the temperance movement heading up protests against alcohol consumption, the first of which was in 1899. The protests often lead to violence doing damage to bars in 33 Kansas towns. You can learn more about this dominant woman and her followers at the [Carrie Nation Home and Museum](#).

### **John Brown Museum: Osawatomie**

Abolitionist who came to Kansas in 1855 led several attacks on proslavery forces. One of which occurred near the town of Black Jack. Today you can visit [Black Jack Battlefield](#) and the [John Brown Museum](#) in Osawatomie. There is much to learn about the struggle for Kansas over slavery leading up to the civil war. Here is an excellent [40 page Civil War notebooking set for Kansas from These Temporary Tents](#). It's perfect for use on this trip with multiple pages to choose from.

\*Book Recommendation: [John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry \(Graphic History\)](#). We haven't actually read this comic style book but it looks interesting.

### **Buster Keaton Memorial Museum: Piqua**

Buster Keaton was a silent movie actor and director from the 1920's. He was born in Piqua, Kansas. If you are interested in film or performance he is a great person to study and perhaps you can make a visit to the [Buster Keaton Memorial Museum](#).

### **Wild Bill Hickock , Buffalo Bill Cody, and Wyatt Earp: Dodge City**

Three famous cowboys. Both were scouts for the U.S. Army. Hickock became a law man and protected frontier towns. Buffalo Bill Cody hunted buffalo to feed the workers on the Kansas Pacific Railroad. He created Buffalo Bill's Wild West traveling show. You can visit [Oakley, Kansas where Buffalo Bill was born](#). There is a notable brass sculpture there of Buffalo Bill and on Center avenue some shadow box displays that highlight different aspects of his life and show. Wyatt Earp was a lawman who served in Wichita and later Dodge City. Visit the [Boot Hill Museum](#) and learn more about these famous lawmen.

\* Study resource: Check out this little [online interactive book about Buffalo Bill's Life](#).

### **Martin and Osa Johnson: Chanute**

The Johnsons are an interesting husband and wife team which I hadn't heard of till living in Kansas. Their story is very inspiring. They adventured and explored together from 1971-1936 in some of the remotest places of the world: the African wilderness, the South Seas, and Borneo. They documented through film the wildlife and cultures of these unknown far away places. Their contributions are immortalized at the [Safari Museum](#): Chanute, Kansas. The museum itself is historical as it is a renovated Santa Fe train depot.



These famous people are included in the history field trips: [Laura Ingalls Wilder](#), [Buffalo Soldiers](#) and the [Amazon Army](#). You may also want to learn more about:

- [James Naismith](#)- basketball inventor who started University of Kansas basketball program
- [Steve Hawley](#)- Astronaut
- [General Frederick Funston](#)
- [Mary Ann "Mother" Bickerdyke](#)- Civil War Nurse
- [Joseph McCoy](#)- cattle drive pioneer, Chisholm Trail and cowtown development
- [Walter P. Chrysler](#)- founded Chrysler Corporation

And [visit a huge listing of many more Kansas people](#) from the Kansas Historical Society.

## **[Science & Nature, Geology, and Geography](#)**

### **[Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center: Hutchinson](#)**

This trip is an absolute must for any homeschooler. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to enjoy your visit here. The museum section has U.S. and Russian space artifacts, the worlds largest collection of space suits, a spy plane, an astronaut training jet, the real Apollo 13 command module, and a full scale shuttle replica. The Space Center offer [several homeschool field trip programs to choose from](#). All you need do is enroll in the one you want! And consider [a camp for your aspiring astronaut](#) too!

### **[Kansas Learning Center for Health: Halstead](#)**

If you want to cover health and life sciences this year Kansas Learning Center for Health would totally fit the bill. The center seems very child/student oriented and has much to offer including a [full size transparent human model known as Vadela](#). Kids can view Vadela and hear her describe the various body systems as they light up. You can visit on your own or sign up for one of the [field trips programs](#) they offer.

### **[Maxwell Wildlife Refuge: Canton](#)**

It wouldn't be a complete picture of Kansas without seeing "where the buffalo roam". [John Gault Maxwell](#) envisioned a place where the prairie would be preserved for future generations to see. [His friends](#) made that a reality and now visitors can either drive through on their own or take a tram ride through the park to view the buffalo and other wildlife. There are currently about 160 buffalo and 80 elk amid many other prairie species.

### **[Tall Grass Prairie Natural Preserve: Strong City](#)**

This is a National Park where the tall grass still grows. Located there is a historic 1881 ranch house with a barn which [you can visit yourself](#) or if you contact them in advance there are guided [field trips](#) as well.

### **Mushroom Rock State Park: Ellsworth County**

The rock formations found in this state park make you ask the question, "How were these formed?" Composed of sandstone and sedimentary rock the softer sandstone on the lower layer of this rock eroded first creating [rocks that look like mushrooms](#).

### **Rock City: Minneapolis**

Over [200 spherical rocks in this "city"](#) just south of Minneapolis. The park is open May-September and would be a great place for kids to get out do some climbing and appreciate this curious outdoor natural collection. Does your child have a passion for collecting rocks? Combine this field trip with this wonderful free unit: [Rocks in His Head](#) from Homeschool Share.

### **Castle Rock / Monument Rock : Grove County**

These natural rock formations from ancient chalk beds are a natural landmark for Kansas. Very beautiful, these rocks have produced significant fossils. One well known fossil, fish with in a fish, can be seen at the [Sternberg Museum of Natural History](#) (see more below) in Hays. The [Keystone Gallery](#) has a collection of the local Kansas Cretaceous period fossils. Another small but interesting sounding museum with fossils is the [Fick Fossil Museum in Oakley](#) which has a large collection of fossils and minerals plus an extensive folk art collection made from thousands of shark teeth fossils found and then created by Viola and Earnest Fick for whom the museum is named.

\* Book recommendations for this trip: [Smithsonian Handbooks: Fossils](#) and [Rocks, Fossils & Arrowheads \(Take Along Guides\)](#).

### **Post Rock Scenic Byway**

Enjoy this beautiful drive and discuss the pioneers and how they used limestone as fence posts. Yes. They used limestone. This had to be hard labor but it was a resource that was in ample supply where lumber was not. This is an 18 mile byway that goes through the smoky hills. There are some scenic overlooks. There is also the [Native Stone Scenic Byway](#) in which you can see what remains of the pioneer built limestone fences. [Echo Cliff Park](#) nearby is another scenic place to visit.

### **Underground Salt Museum: Hutchinson**

Here you go 650 feet below the ground to explore an underground museum detailing the salt mining industry and the geological lessons of the area. If your kids are adventurous they are sure to enjoy being underground for a train ride to see the salt mines as they were 50 years ago. Find out what the miner were like and what they did?

\*Book recommendations for this trip: [Pocket Genius: Rocks and Minerals](#) and why not incorporate a little history study with [The Story of Salt](#). For literature [Miss Bianca in the Salt Mines](#) sounds like a perfect fit.

### **Kansas Meteorite Museum: Haviland**

This small museum has a large collection of [Brenham Meteorites](#). It's the perfect Kansas field trip for your astronomy course or unit. If you wish to learn more about [how to identify meteors](#) this would be a fantastic place to begin.

\*Unit study recommendation: [Call me Ahnighito Free Unit Study](#) from Homeschool Share.

### **Sternberg Museum of Natural History: Hays**

This museum looks like it would be so very fun to visit. It has a hands on Discovery Room for kids, live exhibits and an extensive collection ( about 3 million specimens!) of species exhibits to include specimens from the Earth Sciences as well as Zoology. In addition, [the Kansas Wetlands Education Center](#) also looks interesting for study of the wetlands of Kansas and they have some [great education programs they offer](#). They are located in Great Bend south of [Chyenne Bottoms Wildlife Refuge](#).

### **Geographic Center of the U.S. : Lebanon**

Studying geography? Well look no further. The exact geographic center of the United States is, that's right, in Kansas. It is located a mile north of Lebanon. This spot was designated as the center of the U. S. by the Coast and geodetic Survey in 1898. There is a monument there. Since Alaska and Hawaii joined the union other locations has been designated as well.

### **Kansas State University Insect Zoo: Manhattan**

Study entomology and look at tons of bugs. Take a tour of Kansas State University's Insect Zoo. Or check out many other [Kansas State University](#) programs and tours. You need to call ahead to schedule.

### **Kansas Aviation Museum: Wichita**

Kansas has had great influence and contribution to aviation. I didn't know that until I moved here. [The Boeing: Science, Math and Learning Center here](#) sounds like a great place to spend your whole homeschool day, exploring and doing your studies in a room designed just for that! With several prepared [education programs](#) as well this seems like a wonderful resource for any homeschool family interested in flight.

### **Mid America Air Museum: Liberal**

Is actually the largest aviation collection in Kansas having [over 100 aircraft](#) on display. You can get a guided tour if you contact them in advance.

### **Flint Hills Discover Center: Manhattan**

Find out how and why ranchers set the hills on fire! And discover the cowboys, Indians and railroad too! My son's favorite part of this field trip was reading all the wonderfully interactive trivia questions and seeing if he could answer them correctly. Very child friendly and lots of visually appealing displays.

### **Four State Lookout: White Cloud**

Another great geography point to visit where you can see from the Glacial Hills all at once the states of Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa while seeing a spectacular view of the Missouri River. This would be a great visit for any [Lewis and Clark study](#).

### **Gypsum Hills Scenic Drive**

If you're in the southernmost part of the state these scenic hills, mesas and buttes would make a great geology/geography study. The red color in these hills is created by the gypsum. There are a few of the [museums featured](#) in this series along the way and, of course, also many [natural places to visit](#). The [drive is around 40 miles long](#) from beginning to end.

### **Konza Prairie: Manhattan**

If you want to do some nature hiking [Konza Prairie Trails](#) sound like they will meet your nature study needs. There are a few different loops to choose from that you can hike on your own. But if your looking for a more guided experience they also have a few very fun sounding [volunteer led programs](#) such as systematically catching prairie grasshoppers or wadding the creek to collect insects, identify them and then find out what they tell us about the importance of clean water.

### **Milford Lake Nature Center and Fish Hatchery: Junction City**

This nature center is one we'll be sure to visit. Lots of hands on exploration makes for a nice afternoon where we can pick up a few great new pieces of knowledge. There are [several free programs/tours that they offer](#) to bring nature up close. It will add that extra amount of learning you'd like to give your child at home when you just don't have the time to put together a nature unit. In the [spring months you can also arrange a tour of the fish hatchery](#). [Milford Lake itself is also a wonderful place to to fish, boat, camp, hike, or have a picnic](#).

### **Tuttle Creek Lake: Manhattan**

Another State park to mention is Tuttle Creek Lake. This park also meets your needs for camping, fishing, hiking, and more. See a listing of all the [Kansas State Parks](#) to find one near you that will have everything you need for your family visit or field trip.

A few more mentions:

- [Mount Sunflower](#) -Mount Sunflower is the highest elevation point in Kansas.
- [Tanganyika Wildlife Park](#)- Wichita. Looks like a lovely zoo.

## Culture, Art and Architecture

### State Capital : Topeka

This makes a wonderful homeschool field trip for a government study and for the architecture too. But I'm especially interested in seeing John Curry's once controversial mural paintings. He was commissioned to paint the murals but refused to finish them due to criticism. We will study his art in our homeschool this year. [John Steuart Curry: Inventing the Middle West](#) is a good book to read about him and his art before making a visit.

### Wizard of Oz Museum: Wamego

We are reading the [Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#) this year and doing a unit study along side it. So of course we had a great time visiting the Wizard of Oz Museum in Wamego, KS. They had fun displays of the characters and scenes of the story and a large collection of everything Wizard of OZ. There is also [Dorthy's House Museum in Liberal, Kansas](#) which you can also visit.

### Mulvane Art Museum at Washburn University: Topeka

I'd like to visit this art museum since it's not too far from me and I have heard it is excellent. There are many many art museums through out Kansas so just as with zoos you'll want to find one near to you. Another on my list to see is the [Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art @ KSU](#).

### **Kansas Folk Art and Oddities:**

Pick one of these to visit for a sampling of Kansas culture and creativity:

[The Garden of Eden: Lucas](#) and [Grassroots Art Center](#)

[Crop Art of Stan Herd: Atchison](#)

And you know I have to mention the [world's largest ball of twine](#), a [bell made from wheat](#), and [giant Vincent van Gogh sunflowers](#).

### **Catholic Churches in Kansas- Pilgrimages**

As a Catholic I can't leave these wonderful churches out of my list. But Even if you aren't Catholic they represent some amazing architecture that anyone would appreciate. Earlier in this list I mentioned [St. John Nepomucene](#) home of [Fr. Emil Kapaun](#) in Pilsen, Kansas. I plan to make pilgrimages to these churches as well:

- [St. Fidelis: Victoria](#) - also known as "Cathedral of the Plains"
- [Holy Cross Church: Pfeifer](#)- Gothic architecture
- [St. Joseph's Catholic Church: Damar](#)- Romanesque style
- [St. Mary's Catholic Church: St. Benedict](#)- Beautiful stain glass and artwork

## Helpful Websites and Resources:

- [Natural Kansas](#) by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
- [Kansas Travel and Tourism](#) with a great listing of [Kansas Attractions](#)
- [Geo Kansas](#)
- [Kansas Geological Survey- KU](#)
- [Kansas Byways](#)
- [Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism](#)
- [Natural Kansas](#)
- [Blood on the Border Kansas Civil War Unit](#) from [These Temporary Tents](#)
- [Homeschool Kansas: A Resource for Homeschooling in Kansas](#)
- [Kansas Historical Society](#)
- [Kansapedia](#)
- [Kansas Travel and Tourism](#)
- [Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism](#)