

# Sunflower Journeys

## The Complete Seasons

*This document is an index to topics found in the Sunflower Journeys television program produced by KTWU/11 Public Television in Topeka, Kansas.*

*This series has been made possible by the generous annual support of the agencies and individuals listed on each season.*

*Selected shows are viewable online at [watch.ktwu.org](http://watch.ktwu.org).  
DVDs are available at libraries throughout  
Kansas, ordering online or by contacting us through the  
information listed below.*

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(There are no show titles for this season. Please refer to episode number.)

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## 2017: 3000 Series

We were proud to present the 30th season of Sunflower Journeys to our viewers on KTWU and beyond. In 2017, we offered our unique blend of stories that touch historic aspects of our state, with a mixture of places to go and things to see and do. We do our best to seek out knowledgeable individuals who can speak on a variety of topics. In this 30th season, we looked at the history

of of Bigger Peonies; we met a new student teacher as she was approaching her first classroom of children. We dropped by to see a room full of Lincoln reenactors having breakfast, and our cameras caught a group of high school students so invested in their advance history studies that they donned costumes and portrayed frontier life at Fort Scott to hundreds of 4th graders. Sunflower Journeys finds these interesting stories that are happening every day around us. Drone photography was added to our resume of storytelling techniques this season. And our mission is to keep finding these stories and present them to our local public TV audience, and nationally/internationally on the PBS app.\*



### Episode #3001- “Fun Little Things”

**Blue Sky Miniature Horse Farm:** We take a look at the Blue Sky Miniature Horse Ranch just north of Hays, KS. These little guys will capture your heart, as you get to see a tour of their tiny stable.

**National Museum of Toys / Miniatures:** We head to Kansas City to visit the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, where we see the world’s largest fine-scale miniature collection and one of the nation’s largest antique toy collections.

**The Barbie Twins:** Wilda and Wilma Williams are twin sisters whose collection of Barbie Dolls became so large, it fills a church basement in Leroy, KS.

### Episode #3002 - “Histories’ Lessons”

**National Archives at Kansas City:** Washington, DC, is the home of the National Archives and Records Administration, but there are regional facilities across the country with research rooms and archival holdings for the public to visit. In this segment, we visited the Kansas City office located adjacent to Union Station to see a collection of items of local interest.

**Lansing Inmate Photo Collection - Chapter 205:** The town of Lansing, KS, has a museum that holds a most unusual photo collection. In this archive, you can see female faces from another era that were imprisoned in the 1920s and 30s at the Women’s Industrial Farm under a “Quarantine Charge.”

**Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center at King Louie:** Anyone who grew up in Johnson

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County, KS, probably visited the King Louie West Recreation Center in Overland Park at some time in their youth. That facility closed a number of years ago, and in a huge undertaking by local government, the architectural-significant building reopened as the new Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center with programs of dance, theater and museum spaces.

### **Episode #3003 - “Senior Spotlight”**

**KSU/Senior Mentorship:** Gayle Doll teaches a class at K-State called “Introduction to Gerontology.” This class studies aging, and students learn directly from seniors while seniors share their life experiences with students in a mutual learning exercise.

**The Downsizing Journey:** How important is “stuff” in your life? Time to downsize soon? What do you keep and what do you give away? These are the kinds of questions that KU Professor David Ekerdt considers in his studies of the identity people have with their belongings.

**Plains People - Cam Beatty:** In this Plains People segment, we meet Cam Beatty. In his retired years, Cam is an active Manhattan, KS, resident who fills his life with keeping his body strong and sharing his skills and talents with others.

### **Episode #3004 - “Religious Experience”**

**Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Topeka:** Let’s look at the history of Grace Cathedral near Downtown Topeka. It’s a history that includes a devastating fire that burned the sanctuary to ashes and caused church members to reflect on their mission to serve their community and rebuild in the same location.

**The Reuter Organ Company:** Lawrence, KS has been the home of a company that creates huge pipe organs by hand, and dispatches these masterpieces to churches and other facilities far and wide. The Reuter Organ Company specializes in the movement of air, and the beautiful sounds that this process creates.

**Sunset Spiritualist Church and Camp:** The religion known as Spiritualism has had a presence in Ottawa County, KS since 1873, and the Sunset Spiritualist Church has been in Wells, since 1934. Lets take a look at this different take on Christian practice.

### **Episode #3005 - “Flowers & Farms”**

**Bigger Peonies:** Kansas has a history with peony flowers. Let’s uncover the story of the Bigger family of Topeka, with their award-winning plants and their contributions to the gardening world.

**KSU Soil Testing Lab:** We visit the labs on the K-State campus and the Shawnee County Extension office to see how testing helps discover issues for both home gardens and commercial agriculture.

**Plains People - Kate Johnson:** Kate found out that the corporate world wasn’t for her, and with a little help from some friends, set out on a new course by becoming a farmer.

### **Episode #3006 - “Educational Moments”**

**History of Educational Radio - KSAC:** When radio stations were few and far between in the 1920s, KSAC began broadcasting news and educational programming to rural parts of our state.

**Jobs For America’s Graduates (JAG):** Jobs for America’s Graduates is a national program based out of area high schools to help keep young people in school through graduation, and with a goal of being a stepping stone to making smarter educational choices.

**Plains People - Kaylee Erickson:** Learning to be a teacher is a challenging task, and college student Kaylee Erickson finds out first-hand what it takes to teach a lesson as a student teacher at French Middle School in Topeka, KS.

## **Episode #3007 - “Venturing Outdoors”**

**Wildwood Zipline Adventures:** Flying through the air may be the specialty of birds, but visitors to Wildwood Outdoor Adventure Park can experience their own type of “free fall” through groves of trees in the Flint Hills of Kansas.

**Baker Discovery Center:** Baker Wetlands Discovery Center, south of Lawrence, KS, is a new destination to visit with programs that spotlight the vast variety of animals and plants that flourish in the area.

**Operation Wildlife:** We now learn about Operation Wildlife, a facility in Linwood, KS, that provides rehabilitation services for injured and orphaned wild animals in northeast Kansas.

## **Episode #3008 - “Active Tourism”**

**Lincoln Days:** If you haven’t been to Lincoln, KS, it’s worth a trip, especially when the Lincoln Re-enactment days are in swing. You’ll meet some great people and touch history in the process.

**Glamping:** If you haven’t heard of “Glamping,” you are in for a treat. We check out Hoot Owl Hill in Paola, KS, and see what “Glamping,” a combination of the words “glamour” and “camping,” is all about.

**Evel Knievel Museum:** If you are interested in motorcycles, daredevil stunts and iconic 70s culture, the new Evel Knievel Museum is the place to visit in Topeka, KS.

## **Episode #3009 - “Food and Fun”**

**Wilson Czech Festival:** Food, dance and a parade are only a part of the fun associated with the Wilson After Harvest / Czech Festival. Learning more about Czech culture rounds out this annual tradition as younger people of Czech heritage are eager to lead in this cultural exchange.

**Sunflower Selfies:** The Sunflower has suddenly become a celebrity on the Internet as selfie photos with these yellow flowers have become a new trend.

**Vinland Fair:** Vinland, KS, has declined in population through the years, but a loyal sense of community has kept it’s annual festival alive, with former residents coming back to celebrate.

## **Episode #3010 - “Trails and Quilts”**

**Life on the Frontier:** Learning historical information about frontier life becomes a more engaging lesson for elementary-aged students who visit Fort Scott National Historic Site during the annual “Life on the Frontier” event. Their instructors are high-school students from an advanced history class.

**Chisholm Trail 150:** The story of the Chisholm Trail has been revisited during it’s 150th year. Celebrations bring people together to embrace the history of this historic trail.

**Plains People: Deborah Divine:** A quilt is an item that might have been common to pack for a journey on the early trails. Deborah Divine shares her love of quilts with a workshop in Shawnee, KS, in this Plains People segment.

## **Episode #3011 - “Science in Action”**

**Bee Keeping Revisited:** The result may be sweet as honey, but the process of bee-keeping is full of challenges that bee keepers much face. Let’s check in with some local beekeepers and see what’s up in this industry today.

**Adult Astronaut Adventure:** Summer camp isn’t just for children. The Kansas Cosmosphere, in Hutchinson, KS, has a program for adults called the Adult Astronaut Adventure for space lovers who are 21 years or older.

**Plains People - Brenda Culbertson:** Everyone was watching the sky during the 2017 solar eclipse. In this Plains People segment, Brenda Culbertson and a anxious group of Topeka-area enthusiasts trek north to attempt a clear shot of in the Zone of Totality.

## **Episode #3012 - “Funky Locations & Events”**

**Airplane Salvage Yard:** After an aircraft has performed it’s cycle of flight, the leftover pieces have to go somewhere. We visit Rantoul, KS and see a salvage yard that’s just for that purpose.

**Unusual Kansas Items on the National Register:** Some strange and funky things can appear on the National Register, and we tracked some of them down to show you on this segment.

**Kansas Rocks Recreation Park:** Most people who own 4-wheel drive vehicles probably think a heavy snowstorm is a useful place to utilize their mode of transportation. The folks at the Kansas Rocks Park have some different ideas on what these vehicles really meant for in Mapleton, KS.

## **Episode # 3013 - “Historic Tourism”**

**Sycamore Springs Resort:** People originally came for the “waters,” but today the Sycamore Springs Resort accommodates camping and recreation of all kinds.

**Huron Indian Cemetery:** They have tried, through the years, to move the location of the Huron Indian Cemetery which is next to the downtown Kansas City, Kansas library, but the original site prevails as a place to visit and reflect on one of the oldest historic sites in the Kansas City metro area.

**Fort Riley Fall Apple Day Festival:** Fort Riley has an annual Apple Day Festival - the largest annual festival at the Fort, where apple pies are made from Libby Custer’s own recipe.



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