

# “Marking a Road to Santa Fe: Set your Sights on Sibley”

## Food and Entertainment

**Santa Fe Trail Welcome Social: Mexican Taco Bar, Wednesday September 24, 6 p.m., The Dealership Building, 318 West Main Street, Council Grove, Kansas; FREE, but must register**

Join us as we kick off the symposium with a festive Mexican Taco Bar, celebrating the rich cultural influences that shaped life along the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove, KS. This lively gathering will reflect the flavors and traditions shared between traders, settlers, and Indigenous communities who traveled the historic route.

This Santa Fe Trail Welcome Social offers an opportunity to experience the dynamic fusion of cultures that influenced the region’s cuisine. Enjoy delicious food, connect with fellow attendees, and embrace the enduring spirit of the Santa Fe Trail! The meal is FREE, but you must register to attend. Annie Wilson and the Tallgrass Express band will provide entertainment after the meal. A cash bar will be available.

**Santa Fe Trail Symposium Riverwalk Meal: Friday September 26, 6 p.m., In the Neosho Riverwalk Park, Council Grove, Kansas: Registration Fee-\$35.00**

Step back in time and experience an unforgettable evening under the stars as we celebrate the 200th commemoration of the historic Sibley Survey. Join us for a one-of-a-kind outdoor dining event set at the original river crossing of the trail, where history and hospitality come together in a magical setting.

Wander across the bridge and indulge in a grazing-style feast featuring an array of food stations serving delectable small plates of hearty beef and chicken, accompanied by a variety of sides and decadent desserts. Mingle with fellow guests as you sample an assortment of flavors inspired by the trail’s storied past. Background music provided by Derick Doty.

Friday, September

### 26<sup>th</sup> Menu

- **Braised Short Rib Tartlets** – Tender braised Kansas beef short rib served in a flaky pastry shell with caramelized onions and a horseradish cream.
- **Grilled Herb Chicken Skewers** – Free-range chicken marinated in fresh garden herbs, served with a lemon-thyme aioli and wild rice pilaf.
- **Roasted Root Vegetable Medley** – A seasonal mix of carrots, sweet potatoes, parsnips, and beets, drizzled with a local honey glaze.
- **Three Sisters Succotash** – A tribute to the agricultural staple of the Kaw and other Native nations, featuring corn, beans, and squash.

- **Artisan Bread Basket** – A selection of locally baked breads, including sourdough, corncakes, and wheat rolls, served with whipped herb butter and apple cider-infused honey.
- **Kansas Prairie Board** – Featuring locally cured meats, regional cheeses, pickled vegetables, spiced nuts, and house-made jams, accompanied by crisp crackers and crostini.
- **Rustic Apple Cobbler** – Warm and spiced with cinnamon, served with a scoop of vanilla bean ice cream.
- **Dark Chocolate Bread Pudding** – Made with rich dark chocolate, drizzled with bourbon caramel sauce and topped with candied pecans.

A feast designed to showcase the best of Kansas, this menu will create a memorable and flavorful evening for all attendees. \$35.00- A cash Bar will be available.

Soft string lights and flickering lanterns will illuminate the riverwalk, setting the scene for an enchanting evening. Throughout the night, live musicians will fill the air with melodies, adding to the ambiance of this extraordinary celebration beneath the wide-open sky. Kansas-crafted beer and wine will also be offered to complement the evening's fare. Following the evening meal, *Wedda Skirts* will provide entertainment in the Neosho Riverwalk Amphitheater at 8 p.m. Weda Skirts are a 5-piece bluegrass-adjacent vocal group with a devout following in their home state of Kansas. Since 2008, they have charmed audiences with their soaring harmonies, danceable rhythms, and folky style. They continue to grow and evolve as a group, keeping originals as the core of their repertoire, but throwing in their homemade renditions of popular rock and folk songs. Formerly "The Skirts", "Weda" was added in 2019 to confuse and confound their fan base.

Don't miss this special opportunity to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> Sibley Survey with fine food, great company, and a truly immersive historical atmosphere.

**Council Grove's 200th Commemoration of the Sibley Survey Tent Meal: September 27, 6 p.m., at the Neosho Riverwalk Park, Council Grove, Kansas: Registration Fee- \$35.00**

Join us for a remarkable evening as we commemorate the 200th commemoration of the Sibley Survey at Council Grove, KS, a historic landmark along the Santa Fe Trail. This special dining experience will take place on the picturesque western bank of the Neosho River, site of the original crossing, under the elegant shelter of a grand tent.

Guests will enjoy a buffet-style meal featuring the finest local Kansas ingredients, thoughtfully prepared by talented regional chefs. Savor delicious beef and chicken entrees alongside a variety of carefully curated sides and desserts that highlight the rich agricultural heritage of the Flint Hills region.

Saturday

## September 27<sup>th</sup> Menu

- **Slow-Smoked Kansas Brisket** – Tender, hickory-smoked beef brisket served with a tangy house-made barbecue sauce.
- **Dutch Oven Roasted Herb Chicken** – Bone-in chicken slow-roasted with garden-fresh herbs, garlic, and a hint of lemon.
- **Homestead Baked Beans** – Slow-cooked with smoked bacon, molasses, and a touch of brown sugar.
- **Skillet Fried Potatoes & Onions** – Crispy, golden potatoes sautéed with caramelized onions and seasoned with prairie herbs.
- **Prairie Garden Salad** – A fresh mix of locally grown greens, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, and roasted sunflower seeds, served with a choice of buttermilk ranch or apple cider vinaigrette.
- **Cornbread & Buttermilk Biscuits** – Served with whipped honey butter and homemade preserves.
- **Blackberry Crisp** – Sweet, juicy blackberries baked under a golden crumble topping, served with fresh whipped cream.
- **Kansas Honey Cake** – Moist, spiced cake made with local Kansas honey and topped with a light glaze.
- A meal inspired by the rugged yet flavorful fare of the Santa Fe Trail, this dinner is a perfect way to celebrate Kansas heritage. \$35.00- A cash Bar will be available.

Following the meal and awards presentation, *The Church Ladies* will provide entertainment at 8 p.m. in the Neosho Riverwalk Amphitheater. The Church Ladies are a harmony based acoustic trio who will entertain you with polished performances of bluegrass, country, folk, rock, and gospel. These are not your mama's church ladies. Band members include Mary Louise Stahl (upright bass, mandolin, and tenor banjo), Cynthia Carlyon (melodica, and upright bass), and Joan Nelson (12 string guitar). The Church Ladies are an energetic and entertaining ensemble. Hailing from three rural Kansas communities, our hearts are steeped in the prairie. This is an evening not to be missed—an opportunity to gather, reflect, and celebrate two centuries of history with great food, entertainment, and community spirit.