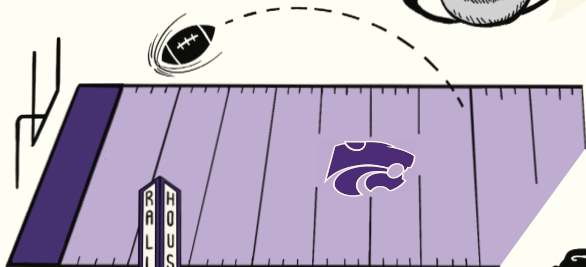


EXPLORE MHK



The K-Stater's Guide to Manhattan

2026-2027





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FLAVORS!
SCAN TO LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE GUIDE

An introduction to the Explore MHK Guide

Explore MHK, a K-Stater's Guide to Manhattan is a collaboration between the Parents and Family Program and the students of Collegian Media Group. Our goal is to provide families with the information and messages that they care about most. The content is crafted by students to target K-State parents and their new Wildcat students.

Please refer to the Parents and Family program at k-state.edu/parentsandfamily and k-state.edu for updates about the university. If you have questions about this guide or suggestions for its content, please contact us at guide@collegianmedia.com. Collegian Media Group makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide.

K-State Parents and Family Program

122 Anderson Hall
(785) 532-2222
parentsandfamily@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/parentsandfamily

Collegian Media Group

103 Kedzie Hall
(785) 370-6350
guide@collegianmedia.com
Find the digital version of this guide at
www.collegianmedia.com/explore-mhk

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WELCOME

Dear Wildcats,

We are thrilled to welcome parents, families and guests to Kansas State University!

As a member of the K-State family, we invite you to get engaged with the K-State Parents and Family Program. This is a resource designed to keep families informed, celebrate student achievements and to help make family memories at K-State. Our program embraces an extensive definition of family. This may include families of origin and families of choice. If you are a friend, spouse, neighbor, extended family member, guardian, or sibling, we welcome everyone. We seek to create an inclusive environment for all students and their family members.

One of the most exciting ways K-State connects with parents and families is through our K-State Parents and Family Connections newsletter and portal. This resource is designed to provide you with all the up-to-date information about what is happening on campus and ways to support your student during the college experience. You can sign up now by going to our website: <https://www.k-state.edu/academic-success-student-affairs/parents-and-family-program/>. Additionally, the Parents and Family Program has a free hotline that parents and families can call with questions. The number is (785) 532-2222 and open for any questions you or your family encounter between now and college graduation!

Mark your calendars now for our signature event, the 98th Annual Family Weekend celebration held on Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19, 2026 (registration opens in late summer). We invite families to experience K-State, eat great food, and make memories with your student. Families can hang out at the pre-game Tailgate Party or celebrate your student at the Family Pinning Ceremony. During the ceremony, we welcome everyone into the K-State family including students who are the first in their family to attend K-State and students who are following a long family legacy of Wildcats.

Every year our program is looking for leaders to serve on the Parents & Family Advisory Board. This group provides a voice for K-State families for issues pertinent to student life. If you would like more information about this opportunity you can email parentsandfamily@k-state.edu. Additionally, you can also follow PFP on Facebook to stay informed and engaged with the K-State community.

With purple pride,

Kevin M. Cook

Dr. Kevin M. Cook
Director of Communication and Parent Engagement
Division of Academic Success and Student Affairs

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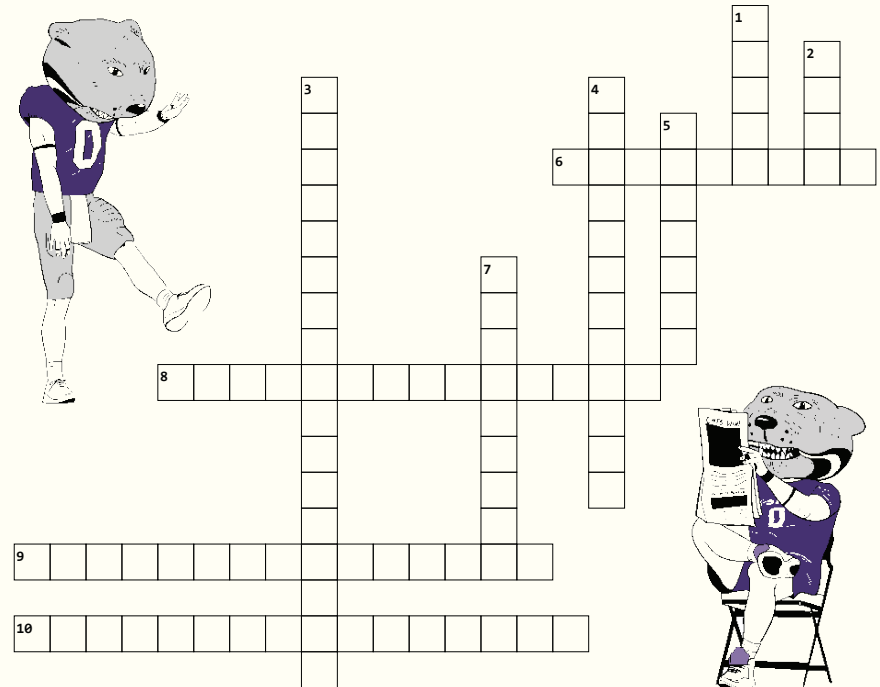
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M H K G U I D E

Solve the crossword with info from the book



Across

- Written by H.W. Jones as the representative song for Kansas State University
- Local bookstore that has been around for 128 years
- A 1930's speakeasy atmosphere with live music and trivia on Wednesdays
- This was the only piece of music to survive the fire of the music department in 1968

Down

- The beauty of Manhattan known for its rolling hills, plants, and animals
- Aggieville's Manhattan-centered store with gifts and attire for anyone who loves MHK
- A refreshing shallow stream surrounded by wildlife and shade
- Has some of the best Raspberry Bean Dip in Aggieville
- This bar has a turf grass roof
- See and learn about exotic animals from across the world

2026-2027 CAMPUS CALENDAR

Important dates in the academic year

FALL 2026

Aug. 20-23 K-State Kickoff	Aug. 24 Fall semester begins	Sep. 5 First home football game	Sep. 7 Labor Day	Sep. 18-19 Family weekend	Oct. 11-17 Homecoming week
Oct. 16 Wildcat Pause Day	Sep. 5 Manhappenin' Release Party	Nov. 22-29 Fall break	Dec. 14-18 Finals week ★	Dec. 18 Fall semester ends	Dec. 19-20 Fall commencement

SPRING 2027

Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Jan. 19 Spring semester begins	Mar. 14-21 Spring break	May 10-14 Finals week ★	May 14 Spring semester ends	May 15-16 Spring commencement
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- Big meets with Little at school on a chosen day once a week during lunch time or before/after school hours
- Spend time eating, reading, playing games, or talking
- Minimum of one school year (two semesters)



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

kansasbigs.org/be-a-big



OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Volunteer at one of our events
- Host your own fundraiser
- Refer a friend to be a Big

Email msink@kansasbigs.org to get involved!

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TRADITIONS AT KANSAS STATE

Learn about K-State's iconic traditions

Alma Mater

Get ready to sing along to K-State's Alma Mater! Written in 1888 by H.W. Jones, the Alma Mater was selected by K-State students in 1903 as the representative song for the university, rousing the loyal KSU fans to sing their school pride.

Purple Power Play

Purple pride is shown city-wide on Thursday and Friday nights before the first home football game of each season. The community gathers in Downtown Manhattan to cheer on the team, enjoy samples of local cuisine and watch fireworks.

Open House

With over 200 events happening across campus, attendees are able to see all of what K-State's campus has to offer, from academics to interactive exhibits, entertainment and food for a full day of family fun! K-State Open House brings together students, families and the community to showcase students' work and what makes K-State special.

Wabash Cannonball

Jump on your feet to join in on the next "Washbash Cannonball" during an athletic event. Synchronized motions of bending, clapping and twisting continue the grand tradition like generations of K-Staters before. Fun fact: the "Wabash Cannonball" was the only music to survive the fire of the music department in 1968.



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- Participate in a mock interview

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- Shop for free professional clothing at the Career Closet

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- Network with employers at career fairs, expos and meet-ups
- Use tech-ready rooms for video interviews
- Receive support for salary negotiation and accepting an offer

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COLISEUM**

SEPT. 22 - SEPT. 24, 2026

GET INVOLVED WITH STUDENT ORGS

Discover what type of organizations fit you best



Academic

One of the easiest ways to get involved and meet others in your major, get to know faculty and make connections between what you're learning in class.

Academic Competition Team

Work with teammates and faculty to represent K-State at competitions at all levels and sharpen the skills you are learning in class.

Fraternity/Sorority

Social Greek-letter organizations are mostly categorized under 3 governing councils - Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council (historically black fraternities & sororities) with a couple additional outside of these councils.

General University

These consist of college councils, ambassador programs, community programming, and student governance among others.

Community Service

Spend time helping the local community alongside other students that want to give back.

Special Interest

These clubs include organizations for different hobbies, activities, interests, communities and more.

Honorary

Organizations focused on scholarship, leadership and service. Some require a specific GPA, major, or year in school, while others are open to students with specific interests.

Political

Explore ideologies and consider how civic engagement is important. Political organizations can help you engage with others in meaningful conversations.

Religious

There are many organizations available to help you find a religious community at college. Some are connected to specific places of worship in Manhattan, others are stand-alone groups on campus.

Multicultural

Engage with those from cultures different than your own, or connect with students who share your own culture, bringing global perspectives.

Sport Clubs

If you've played a sport for years or you're just starting, try competing against other K-State students.

Competitive Sport Clubs

With something for all skill levels, these clubs allow you to practice and compete against other campuses.

Visit Org Central to get involved at K-State in August 2026



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Find your perfect place to stay in MHK

Holiday Inn Manhattan at the Campus

This hotel is nestled in the Flint Hills about 15 minutes from Ft. Riley and an hour west of Topeka. Looking for good meal without having to leave the hotel? Head over to their on site restaurant, Houlihans.

Hilton Garden Inn Manhattan Bluemont Hotel

Discover downtown from with Hilton connected to Manhattan Conference Center. They are walking distance from Flint Hills Discovery Center, and other downtown amenities.

Bluemont Hotel

The main floor includes a lobby bar, business center, indoor pool and fitness center. At the corner of Bluemont and Manhattan Avenues, guests have easy access to historic Aggieville and Kansas State University.

Bluemont Hotel

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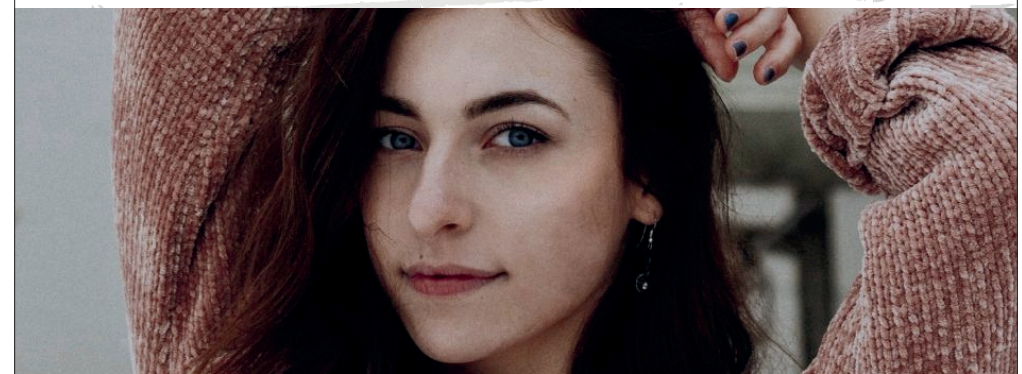
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TOWN'S BEST EATS

The best places to dine with your new friends or family



Tallgrass Taphouse

Taphouse, located in downtown Manhattan, offers tons of variety to their craft beer-loving crowd, as well as tasty dishes to pair with their brews. Taphouse is more upscale than restaurants in Aggieville, so it's perfect for a higher-end evening with friends.

So Long Saloon

When you stop by So Long, you have to order the Raspberry Bean Dip (shown on the left). Not only does So Long offer Tex-Mex cuisine, but they also provide an energetic atmosphere, top-notch drinks and unique burgers even the pickiest of eaters will love.

Green Tea Sushi

If you're a sushi-lover, Green Tea is a staple in Manhattan. Providing authentic Japanese sushi as well as Sake, appetizers and bento boxes, Green Tea Sushi is perfect for any foodie.

Wine Dive + Kitchen

Located in downtown Manhattan, this is a great option for a more refined experience and a quieter atmosphere. Try a more elegant dinner of dishes like succulent scallops and savory duck, or indulge in fancier cocktails for a memorable evening.

The Chef

Whether you're looking for a classic American breakfast or something more unique like PB&J pancakes, The Chef offers something for everyone. Make sure to try a cup of their locally roasted coffee or one of their tasty cocktails.

Pho Viet

Started as the first pho restaurant in downtown Manhattan, Pho Viet offers delicious pho among other delicious Vietnamese dishes. Try their warm, comforting pho along with a boba tea.

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Find the perfect activities to bring fun to any day

Flint Hills Discovery Center

The Flint Hills Discovery Center is great for history buffs and casual learners alike. The center has outdoor exhibits as well as a theater and interactive simulations. At only \$10 per adult, Flint Hills Discovery Center is great for an afternoon of adventure.

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

The Beach Museum is ideal for people who love change, as the museum updates their exhibitions regularly. Featuring regional art and a knack for storytelling, the Beach Museum is perfect for an afternoon outing.

Sunset Zoo

If you're looking for an activity everyone will love, look no further than the Sunset Zoo! With continent based sections, the zoo provides a well-rounded experience for cheap admission.

SHOPPING LOCAL

Support these community businesses and enjoy their charm

On the Wild Side

This eclectic shop accommodates those who enjoy hobbies out of the ordinary. From taro and incense to all your herbal necessities and quirky clothing in the back of the shop, On the Wild Side definitely lives up to its name.



Mesa Collection Boutique

Mesa offers a selection of unique apparel, footwear, and accessories to elevate every wardrobe. You'll also love their permanent jewelry, charm bar, and custom shirt printing wall—perfect for personalizing your style.

ACME

ACME Gift and ACME Local are a staple in Aggieville. Local's sweet Manhattan-centered attire is great for Manhattan newbies or oldies, and Gift boasts unique knick-knacks, games and decor for anyone who loves some high quality, quirky products.



JOIN THE MR.K'S, KITE'S & ROCKIN K'S FAMILY

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PLAN YOUR VISIT OR EVENT –

Check out our menu, inquire about private spaces, view upcoming events, or book offsite catering at www.eatingmhk.com.

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NEED COFFEE?

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The Dusty Bookshelf

The Dusty Bookshelf is perfect for book and coffee lovers. Its cozy atmosphere makes for a great study spot. Try one of their unique specialty coffees while you peruse their wide variety of books.

Bluestem

Bluestem is a popular destination for coffee dates, meetings and homework. Offering smooth espresso, yummy brunch and lunch plates, Bluestem is great for your next trip to Manhattan.

Flight Crew

Located on Poyntz, Flight Crew is an airline-themed coffee shop with a relaxed vibe. Flight Crew opened up a couple years ago, and has proven itself to the Manhattan community.

Radina's

Radina's is a Manhattan staple and gives customers a robust espresso option and house-made food for people looking to sit inside or those in a hurry. They also sell handmade pastries and bread.





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BARS 2 BEAT

Find your favorite burger and brew in Aggieville

Auntie Mae's Parlor

This bar is set in a 1930s speakeasy with a quirky, laid back atmosphere. Live music in a variety of styles is performed, and don't miss trivia on Wednesdays!

Johnny Kaw's Yard Bar

Yard games, fire pits and the two largest patios right in the heart of Aggieville! This clean, welcoming tailgating type atmosphere is covered in turf and enjoyed by all Wildcat fans!

Kite's Bar & Grill

This century-old location holds a sacred tradition by serving great food and drinks, and providing a location where friends and family can gather, especially to root on the 'Cats.

Tubby's Sports Bar

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MANHATTAN'S NATURE

Discover MHK's best scenery within 30 minutes of campus

Konza Prairie

A beauty of tallgrass prairie known for its rolling hills, plants and animals, the Konza Prairie is a Flint Hills gem. Take a hike along its trails and soak in the stunning landscape this ecosystem has to offer.

Pillsbury Crossing

A sweet escape on a warm day, Pillsbury Crossing is a refreshing shallow stream surrounded by wildlife and shade—perfect for an afternoon in nature.

Manhattan City Park

Manhattan City Park is one of the oldest parks in the community, but holds its own. With a rose garden, daylily garden, aquatic center, pavilion and family center, several ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground and multi-use trail running along the outer edges of the park, there is something for all at this local hotspot.

Top of the World

Sitting just outside Manhattan, Top of the World boasts a beautiful view of the city and its surrounding on a hill. It's a beautiful spot to watch the sunrise or a storm roll in. With a roughly one mile long walking/hiking trail, this is a great spot to venture to.

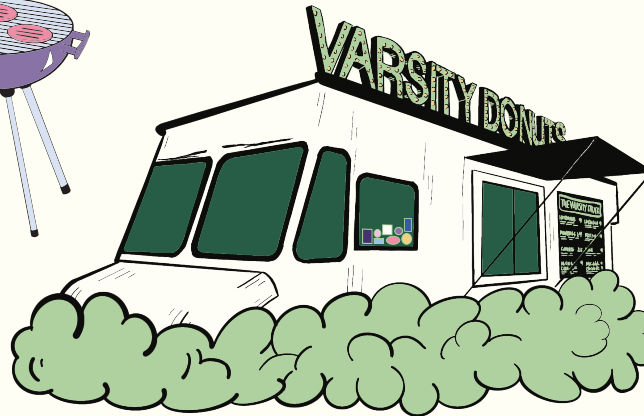


50 THINGS TO DO BEFORE GRADUATION

1. Hike the Konza Prairie
2. Grab a coffee and study at Bluestem
3. Rock climb at the Rec
4. Order a mac 'n cheese grilled cheese at The Varsity Truck
5. Play minigolf at Wildcat Fitness and Fun
6. Take a photo with Willie
7. Tailgate at a football game
8. Go to Purple Power Play
9. Cheer on the 'Cats at a Sunflower Showdown vs. KU
10. Get involved with student media on campus



11. Take graduation pictures on Anderson Lawn
12. Eat at the Union with friends
13. Study in the Great Room at Hale Library
14. Walk through the Manhattan Town Center
15. Bike on the Linear Trail
16. Visit Top of the World
17. Order the raspberry bean dip at Taco Lucha or So Long Saloon
18. Order a K-Stater donut from Varsity Donuts
19. Visit the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art
20. Shop at Sisters of Sound Records
21. See a show at McCain Auditorium



22. Play Singo at Tanner's Bar and Grill
23. Go bowling at the Union
24. Meet new people at K-State Kickoff on Anderson Lawn
25. Attend Kedziepalooza
26. Attend K-State Open House
27. Play Spikeball at Memorial Stadium
28. Attend the International Block Party on Bosco Student Plaza
29. Listen to live music at Auntie Mae's Parlor
30. Paint ceramics at Uncorked Inspiration



31. Order chicken parmesan and pasta at Nico's Little Italy
32. Play sand volleyball at the Rec
33. Go to Late Night at the Union
34. Walk the City Park loop
35. Attend the Pancake Feed
36. Walk through the K-State Gardens
37. Visit the Flint Hills Discovery Center
38. Shop at the Manhattan Farmer's Market
39. Visit Sunset Zoo
40. Walk through downtown on a Third Thursday
41. Read a book at The Dusty Bookshelf
42. Take a class at the Manhattan Arts Center
43. Make a craft at Radina's Coffee Plant
44. Visit Liquid Art Winery and Estate
45. Attend a UPC event
46. Join an intramural sports team
47. Go to a Bark in the Park K-State Baseball game
48. Listen to a variety of musicians at Frog Wizard Festival
49. Run the St. Patrick's Day Road Race
50. Try a cake from Bourbon & Baker



ABOUT THE STAFF

Meet the students behind the Explore MHK Guide

Lilly Crist

Lilly Crist, designer, is a senior studying visual communication design with a minor in Spanish and a certificate in music business. She is from Columbia, Missouri and is grateful for the opportunity to design this fun guide that showcases what MHK has to offer. Throughout her time at K-State, she has designed and photographed for The Kansas State Collegian all four years and is serving her third year as the page design chief. She is excited to continue creating and is looking forward to graduating this year!



Evan Gnagy

Evan Gnagy, designer, is a senior studying visual communication design with a minor in marketing. He is from Wichita, Kansas and is excited to give a guide that makes your experience in Manhattan the best it can be! In his time with the Collegian Media Group, he has served as a photographer for the Royal Purple Yearbook and a page designer for the Kansas State Collegian. He will be working as the graphic design chief for the 2026-27 school year, looks forward to the upcoming year and can't wait to see what comes next.



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