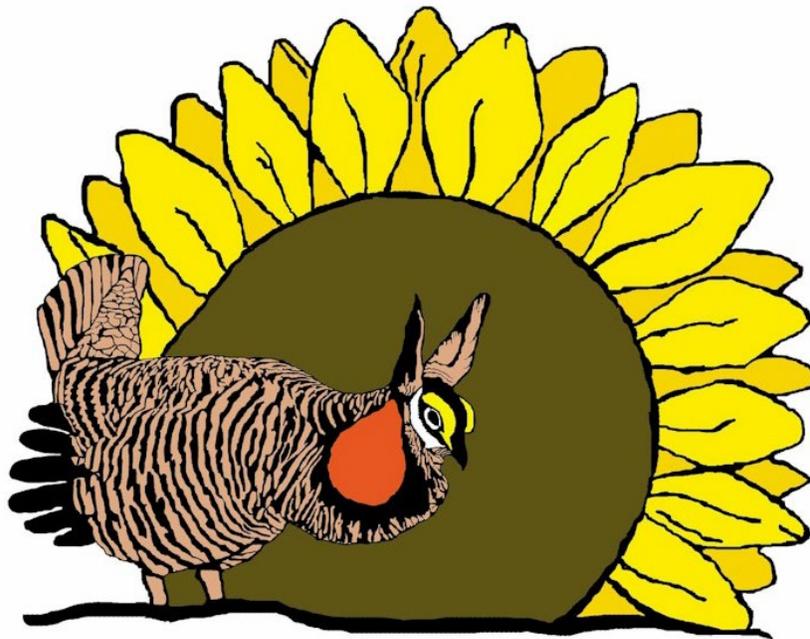


# Kansas ECO-Meet 25<sup>th</sup> Annual



November 6, 2025  
Rock Springs Ranch  
Junction City, Kansas

# 2025 State ECO-Meet

## *Mission Statement...*

“To challenge and inspire an interest in, appreciation of and an understanding of the natural sciences and the Kansas environment thru interscholastic competition.”

**Get Online!** Check out the latest information about the 2025 State Eco-Meet at:

<http://www.kansasecomeet.org>

## *Vital Statistics...*

### **When is the 2025 State ECO-Meet?**

Thursday, November 6th. The event will take place - rain or shine! All events, except the Scavenger Hunt, will be conducted in an enclosed structure.

### **Where is the 2025 State ECO-Meet being held?**

At the Rock Springs Ranch south of Junction City. For maps, information, and travel directions go to: [Map | Rock Springs Ranch](#)

**All** visitors to Rock Springs Ranch are required to complete a **Health & Participant Form** before arriving on-site. The form is available in this packet and can be printed off, filled out and turned in upon arrival at registration.

### **What time does the 2025 State ECO-Meet begin?**

Promptly at 9:00 am. Please plan on arriving between 8:00 am and 8:45 am to Check-in and for team pictures. If a school is late, teams and individuals will less time for their first scheduled event, which begins at 9:15 am.

### **Where do schools and individuals park?**

The best options will be at the Williams Dining Hall lot, the Vesper Lookout and Heritage Hall parking lots.

### **Where do the competitors and sponsors check in?**

The check-in station is located at the **Riley-Wallace Education Building** (see enclosed map). Everyone may enjoy the morning refreshments beginning at approximately 8:10 am. The registration form for teams/individuals is in the packet if you didn't receive one at your regional competition. It needs to be returned to:

Ellen Rader, Wilson State Park  
#3 State Park Rd.  
Sylvan Grove, KS 67481  
Or [ellen.rader@ks.gov](mailto:ellen.rader@ks.gov)

**What are the fees for the 2025 ECO-Meet?**

A registration fee of \$15.00/competitor/coach will be collected at check-in.

NOTE: Please make checks payable to **Kansas ECO-Meet**. Credit cards are **not** accepted.

**Will lunch be provided?**

Yes, lunch will be provided for all competitors, coaches, drivers that have either paid in advance or at registration, with meal tickets issued. If you have special dietary requirements, please contact: Hana Nelsen:

[hnelsen@rockspringsranch.org](mailto:hnelsen@rockspringsranch.org) The nearest location for other meal options for non-participants will be along I-70 at Junction City.

**How should you dress?**

The 2025 State ECO-Meet will be held regardless of the weather, so please dress appropriately for fall conditions.

**Can we stay at the Rock Springs 4H Center?**

Accommodations for the night before the event are available on a limited basis.

Arrangements to stay at the facility must be made by each school, as the Eco-Meet committee is not involved with that aspect of the competition. If you are interested in staying on-site, go to: [Lodging | Rock Springs Ranch](#)

**What are other places to stay the night before the meet”**

There are several motels in the Junction City area, so a quick internet search will provide contact information.

**Each school must make these contacts on their own.**

**More questions?**

For more information about Rock Springs 4H Center, contact Hana Nelsen at (785) 257-3221 or [hnelsen@rockspringsranch.org](mailto:hnelsen@rockspringsranch.org)

For more questions about the the Kansas ECO-Meet competition, contact Mike Rader at (620) 672-0708 or e-mail: [mike.rader@ks.gov](mailto:mike.rader@ks.gov)

### ***Remember...***

- ❖ The first, second, and third place teams from each regional Eco-Meet as well as the first and second place individual winners in the Wetlands/Aquatic ecosystem test and the Invertebrates focus test are qualified to compete at the 2025 State Eco-Meet.
- ❖ Teams can only compete for team scholarships and individuals qualifying at their regional meet for State will only compete for scholarships in the areas in which they qualified.
- ❖ No substitutions of team members or individuals can be made from the regional meet. If a member of a qualifying team cannot attend, the team must compete with only the remaining team members.
- ❖ Teams will present their regional interpretive presentation. However, improvements are encouraged. Props and make-up may be used but you must be ready to present when called upon.
- ❖ Teams will give their interpretive event presentations in the order shown on the schedule.
- ❖ All other participants in the interpretive event are to act as the audience for other teams.
- ❖ Rules and regulations of the Eco-Meet are subject to change. All changes will be explained in advance to all teams and coaches. The Eco-Meet committee welcomes any suggestions or comments about the event and will consider any submitted ideas.
- ❖ After-meet packets will be emailed out to all coaches with their team and individual students' results within a couple of days.
- ❖ Professionals from various fields of interest will conduct the 2025 State Eco-Meet.
- ❖ All decisions by the judges are final.

### ***About the awards...***

- ❖ Scholarships, medals, and certificates will be presented to each member of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall teams. Scholarships are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$100.
- ❖ Scholarships, medals, and certificates will be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place individual winners in the Wetlands/Aquatic ecosystem test and the Invertebrates focus test. Scholarships are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$100.
- ❖ A traveling trophy will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> place overall team winner. The trophy will reside at the team's school until the 2026 State ECO-Meet. State scholarship claim forms can be obtained at <http://www.kansasecomeet.org> or by contacting Marty Birrell at: [marty.woolard@yahoo.com](mailto:marty.woolard@yahoo.com)

## **2025 Kansas State ECO-Meet Schedule of Events**

When: November 6th, 2025 (Thursday)

Where: Rock Springs Ranch (785) 257-3221

8:00 – 8:55 a.m. – Check-in at the Riley-Wallace building

Morning refreshments provided

Photographs taken of all participants

9:00 – 9:10 a.m. – Welcome and last-minute guidance

9:15 – 10:20 a.m. – Event #1

10:25 – 11:40 a.m. – Event #2

11:45 – 12:30 p.m. – Lunch

12:35 – 1:40 p.m. – Event #3

1:45 – 2:50 p.m. – Event #4

ASAP – Presentation of Awards

Photographs taken of the winners

3:30 p.m. - Departure

The 2025 Kansas State ECO-Meet is Sponsored by:

The Kansas Wildscape Foundation

KDWP Wildlife Education Service

Chickadee Checkoff

The Kansas Ornithological Society

Barton Community College

Friends of Great Plains Nature Center

The Kansas Native Plant Society

Safari Club International – Kansas City Chapter



# INDIVIDUAL/HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

**PLEASE PRINT LISTING ALL INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING EVENT**

Group Name	Dates Onsite @ RSR	
Participant Full Name	Email	
Street	City/State/Zip	
Primary Phone	Birthdate	Gender
Emergency Contact #1	Relationship	Cell Number
Emergency Contact #2	Relationship	Cell Number
Parent/Guardian Name (If participant is under 18)	Notes	For Internal Use

## ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPANTS

Full Name	Birthdate	Gender

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THIS DOCUMENT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND IS LEGALLY BINDING. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, YOU ARE RELEASING KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH FROM ALL LIABILITY AND FOREVER GIVING UP ANY CLAIMS THEREFORE.**

### Participation

I hereby agree to and acknowledge that I am responsible and liable for my behavior and that of the minor children listed. I further agree that I and the minor children listed will observe and act in accordance with all applicable regulations, protocols, and procedures set forth by KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH, herein referred to as RSR, in addition to all federal, state and local laws and regulations.

### Photography and Audio

I give the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH, and its employees and agents permission to use for any lawful purpose my and/or the likeness of my child in image, voice and/or appearance as such may be embodied in any pictures, drawings, renderings, photographs, video recordings, audiotapes, digital images or the like. If at any time I need to remove photography and audio permission for my child, I understand that the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH will need written notification.

### Naturally Occurring Illnesses

I understand that naturally occurring illness (including, but not limited to, the novel coronavirus or COVID-19), may come to exist in communities such as KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH. I acknowledge that, although KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH is taking reasonable measures to avoid contact, transmittal, and exposure of illnesses between people, it is ultimately up to each individual and family to decide as to whether KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH is a viable option and/or a mitigated risk that they are willing to move forward with. I understand and agree that as a guest of or by sending the minor children listed to KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH, I am accepting and voluntarily assuming the risk of myself and/or minor children being exposed and/or becoming ill as a result of an illness in order to utilize services and enter KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH premises.

### Accident/Injury

I understand that no accident insurance is provided when participating in KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH programs. In the event of an emergency in which the parent/guardian or listed emergency contacts cannot be reached, KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH will contact emergency medical personnel and, pending their arrival, take those actions that are in KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRING RANCH judgement to be in the best interests of the participant. I agree to pay for all medical expenses that may be necessary for the health and well-being of me/my child.

### **Waiver Signature and Agreements**

I have read, understand and agree with all of the policies as stated in this document and I have discussed the expectations of behavior with my child/ward. I understand that the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH has the authority to revoke my/my child's right to participate in KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH programs for behavior which is not in keeping with the mission of the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH or for failing to follow the policies/procedures of the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH. My signature below indicates that I agree to adhere to all policies, procedures and the mission of the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH.

The parent/guardian signing below represents by executing this document that they have the full authority to give permission for the minor child to participate in this program and intends unconditionally for the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH to rely upon this representation for all purposes related to the program.

**INDEMNITY WAIVER, RELEASE, INDEMNIFICATION OF ALL CLAIMS & COVENANT NOT TO SUE FOR GUESTS, GUARDIANS OR MINORS**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THIS DOCUMENT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND THOSE OF MINORS. IT IS LEGALLY BINDING. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, YOU RELEASE KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH AND RELATED PERSONS/ENTITIES FROM ALL LIABILITY AND FOREVER GIVING UP ANY CLAIMS.**

### **Assumption of Risk**

I, in my personal capacity, or in my legal capacity as the parent/guardian of the minor named above ("Minor"), acknowledge and agree that any use of KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH facilities, services, equipment, and premises ("Facilities") and any participation in KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH programs and activities ("Programs") comes with inherent risks. These include, but are not limited to: (1) personal injury, (2) property damage, (3) disability, (4) death, and (5) sickness or disease. I, voluntarily, for myself and/or Minor, accept and assume full responsibility for these risks. I also, voluntarily, for myself and/or Minor, accept and assume full responsibility for all other risks of Facilities use and Programs participation. For myself and/or Minor, I agree that I know the nature and extent of all such risks. For myself and/or Minor, I am not relying on all such risks being described in this document. Nor am I relying on any KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH employee, or any other person, communicating them to me.

I understand that Facilities use and Program participation is voluntary. They can be discontinued at any time. I understand that any activities related to, arising out of, or in connection with, Facilities use and Program participation involve some element of risk. I agree, in my own personal capacity, and in my legal capacity as the parent/Guardian of Minor, that in partial consideration of the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH's making these facilities and programs available, I will not try to hold the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH, it's officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers, insurers, and representatives ("Releasees") liable in damages. This includes damages for any injury or loss to person or property that Minor or I sustain in connection with, arising out of, or related to, the Facilities or Program. I understand that I am hereby releasing the KANSAS 4-H FOUNDATION DBA ROCK SPRINGS RANCH, it's officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers, insurers, and representatives (Releasees) from any liability for any injury to myself and/or Minor arising in connection with, related to, or arising out of, the Facilities or Programs. I, on my own behalf, and that of Minor, give up any right to take any legal or quasi-legal action against Releasees for any injury.

### **Waiver, Release, Indemnification & Covenant Not to Sue**

In consideration of my own, and/or Minor's Facilities use and/or Program participation, I, in my personal capacity, or legal capacity as parent/guardian of Minor, agree on behalf of myself and Minor that Releasees will not be liable for any personal injury, property damage, disability, death, sickness, or disease incurred by myself, my family members, dependents, or guests, including Minor, however occurring. This includes, but is not limited to, any personal injury, property damage, disability, death, sickness, or disease arising out of, or in connection with, the negligence of Releasees. I understand that Minor and I will be solely responsible for any loss or damage, including personal injury, property damage, disability, death, sickness, or death sustained from my own or Minor's Facilities use, Program participation, or both.

I specifically agree, on my own behalf, and in my legal capacity as parent/guardian of Minor, to waive any liability arising out of any actual, alleged, or threatened infectious, pathogenic, toxic, or other harmful properties of any "organic pathogen". This includes, but is not limited to bacteria, viruses, or other pathogens, whether or not a microorganism. This waiver applies no matter if such "organic pathogen" results from a local, state-wide, national, or global outbreak, epidemic, pandemic, or unknown cause.

I further agree, on my own behalf, and in my legal capacity as the parent/guardian of Minor, on behalf of Minor, myself, and all legal successors and proxies, to release and HEREBY DO RELEASE, WAIVE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE Releasees from any causes of action, claims, suits, liabilities, or demands of any nature. These include, but are in no way limited to, claims of negligence, which Minor, myself, and all legal successors and proxies may have, now or in the future, against Releasees because of personal injury, property damage, disability, death, sickness, disease, or accident of any kind, arising out of, connected with, or in any way related to Facilities use or Programs participation. This release on behalf of minor and me applies however the injury or damage occurs, including, but not limited to, the negligence of Releasees. It will apply whether participation is supervised or unsupervised.

In further consideration of the use of Facilities and participation in Programs, I, on my own behalf, and, in my legal capacity as parent/guardian of Minor, agree on behalf of myself and Minor to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS Releasees from all causes of action, claims, demands, losses, suits, liabilities, or costs of any nature at all. These include, but are not limited to, claims of negligence, arising out of or in any way related to the Minor's Facilities use, Program participation, or both.

I further agree, on behalf of myself, and in my legal capacity as parent/guardian of Minor, and all legal successors and proxies, to release and HEREBY DO RELEASE, WAIVE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE Releasees from any causes of action, claims, suits, liabilities, or demands of any nature. These include, but are not limited to claims of negligence, which I, Minor, and all legal successors and proxies may have, now or in the future, against Releasees because of personal injury, property damage, disability, death, sickness, diseases, or accident of any kind, arising out of or in any way related Facilities use or Programs participation. I agree that this release, waiver, and covenant not to sue applies however the injury or damage occurs. It includes, but is not limited to the negligence of Releasees. I further agree that it applies whether participation is supervised or unsupervised.

**I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD, AND VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO THIS WAIVER, RELEASE, INDEMNIFICATION & COVENANT NOT TO SUE AGREEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian or Adult Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date