

In Celebration of America 250, Visit Salina presents...

250 Reasons to LOVE Salina, Kansas!



- 1 *Big City Attractions with a Small Town Feel*
- 2 **Rolling Hills Zoo**, and wildlife museum, more than 100 species and fun for the whole family
- 3 **The Garage Automotive Museum** interactive education with rotating exhibits and fun all ages
- 4 **Smoky Hill Museum** where you can imagine the hardship and freedom of settling the area
- 5 **Yesteryear & Scouting Museums** featuring flywheel tractors, a one room school house and agricultural heritage
- 6 Discover the legacy and stories of generations of students through the **St. John's Military School Museum**
- 7 **Salina Art Center** with rotating exhibitions of fascinating art from world reknown artists
- 8 Eating fresh popcorn and watching a movie at the **Salina Art Center Cinema**
- 9 **Theatre Salina** bringing live performances and local talent to the stage
- 10 Walking **SculptureTour Salina** and voting for your favorite piece
- 11 Seeing your favorite performer or attending the **Salina Symphony Concerts** in the beautiful **Stiefel Theatre**
- 12 The view on Santa Fe cruising north toward the **Mural by the Mill**
- 13 **Salina Speedway** dirt track racing
- 14 Floating the lazy river, water walking or going down slides on a hot day at **Kenwood Cove Aquatic Park**
- 15 **Joyful Noise Playhouse** bringing imagination, creativity, and laughter to young audiences
- 16 Socializing at **GreatLIFE Golf and Fitness** center
- 17 **Salina Country Club** golf, eat and socialize M1918
- 18 **Clubhouse Golf** indoor play and virtual practice courses
- 19 **Smoky Hills Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary** hiking, fishing and birdwatching
- 20 **Art Center Warehouse** often with artists workshops and painting parties
- 21 **Salina Family YMCA** with weights, fitness programs, courts, daycare and play areas
- 22 The **Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range** providing space, equiment and training to our military
- 23 **Salt & Light Homestead and Pumpkin Patch** for fresh produce and seasonal fun activities
- 24 **The First Tee** youth golf training and practice course at the **Salina Municpal Golf Course**
- 25 **Children's Theatre** (CTA) season at **Theatre Salina**
- 26 **Salina Selfie Station** to get your best photos in seasonally changing fun settings
- 27 **The Gallery in Sam's Hall of Fine Art** at KWU
- 28 The Kansvas Project **BOOM! Salina Murals**
- 29 **Artwork Alley** where art is all over the walls
- 30 **Historic Downtown Walking Tour**
- 31 **Black History Driving Tour**
- 32 Community gatherings, livestock shows, expos, and celebrations at the **Saline County Expo Center**
- 33 **The Salina Public Library** with books, internet access, children's area and technology center
- 34 **Salina Sliders Summer Baseball** games at Dean Evans
- 35 **Salina Liberty Indoor Football** game at Tony's Pizza Events Center
- 36 Jumping at **Sky Trampoline Park** with arcade concessions, pickleball and event space
- 37 **The Alley** entertainment center with large arcade, laser tag and bowling

- 38 **The Yard** baseball and softball practice facility with HitTrax Technology and outdoor covered infield
- 39 **District Eat & Play** featuring Go-karts, arcade & more
- 40 Creating baseball memories at **Dean Evans Stadium** and **Pestinger Baseball Field**
- 41 Youth Soccer at the **Salina Soccer Complex**
- 42 **Gypsum Hill Cemetery** Historical Tour
- 43 ***BIG Events, Experiences and Memories Waiting To Happen***
- 44 The **Smoky Hill River Festival** tradition that brings art, music, food and friends together year after year
- 45 Baseball Enterprises **Grand Slam Baseball Tournament** each Summer
- 46 Easy access around town with **CityGo** public transportation
- 47 **Festival Jam** and other Oakdale Park outdoor concerts at **Eric Stein Stage**
- 48 **Salina Irish Road Bowling** friendly and fun competition in early fall
- 49 **Holiday Festival & Parade of Lights** in Downtown
- 50 Fun on the dance floor at **Outlaws**
- 51 Kustom Kemps of America (KKOA) **Leadsled Spectacular Car Show** each July
- 52 Annual **Salina Crossroads Marathon** (a Boston Marathon qualifier) every 1st Saturday in November
- 53 **Tournament of Champions** and other Kids Wrestling events
- 54 **Smoky Hill Museum Street Fair** every September
- 55 **Father's Day Car Show** at Rolling Hills Zoo
- 56 Finding the perfect gift at the **Girl Scouts See & Sell** market and crafts fair
- 57 **Juneteenth Celebration** over multiple days of activities and a parade
- 58 Running in the **Frosty 5K Fun Run** & other **Run Salina Series** events
- 59 Finding community friendly competition through local groups like the **Salina Dart Association**
- 60 **Veterans Day Ceremony** at the **War Memorial** in Sunset Park
- 61 **Mid-America Farm Expo** each March
- 62 **Christmas by Candlelight** concert at KWU
- 63 **Pumpkin Pazoola** at Rolling Hills Zoo
- 64 Sipping wine from the local **Smoky Hill Vineyard and Winery**
- 65 Fall and Spring Music Concerts at the **KWU Music Halls-Sam's Chapel, Bieber Hall, and the Applequist Family Music Center**
- 66 **Kansas Day celebration and Tours** at the Smoky Hill Museum
- 67 **Final Summit Blues Festival** each October at **Acoustic Sounds**
- 68 **Holiday Lights in the Museum** at Rolling Hills Zoo-Kansas' only indoor, climate-controlled holiday light show
- 69 **Redneck Paradise Mud Run** KMRO sanctioned event
- 70 ***Food & Drink for Every Taste!***
- 71 More than 95 **dining** options year round plus pop up food trucks
- 72 Legendary specialty **pizza** at several restaurants throughout the community
- 73 Savoring the flavor at **Hickory Hut BBQ**
- 74 Sharing a meal at **Martinelli's Little Italy**
- 75 Date night at **Barolo Grille**
- 76 **Carrol Lee Donuts** for the office and co-workers you love
- 77 **Tropical Sno** cones on a hot summer day with friends

- 78 Dining on the patio at **Meddy's** fresh Mediterranean
- 79 **Jose Peppers** and listening to music in the plaza
- 80 **Bayard's Café** with homecooked breakfast or lunch ,coffee and conversation
- 81 **Chuck's Bar & Grill** trash can nachos
- 82 **AJ's Sports Grill** appetizers before bowling
- 83 **Bogey's** burgers and more than 101 flavors of shakes
- 84 **Crispy Donut** decisions-plain, mable, crème filled
- 85 **Paramount Bar** with friends and cold drink on the patio
- 86 Finding a hidden gem food scene like **Janaki Indian Cuisine**
- 87 Filling and refilling your plate at **Hong Kong Buffet**
- 88 Street tacos at **Candiles Tacos & Tequila**
- 89 Authenticity at **La Morenita Mexican Restaurant**
- 90 **Pancho's Mexican** food and 24/7 drive-thru
- 91 Homemade pie and fried chicken at **Russell's Restaurant**
- 92 Healthy and plentiful options at **PrairieLand Market**
- 93 Simply delicious **Seraphim Bread**
- 94 **Gourmet Eats** by dine-in or drive-thru
- 95 Discovering your new favorite drink at **1858 Coffee House**
- 96 Relaxing with a good book at **Ad Astra Books & Coffee**
- 97 Selecting the finest for your grill at **Smoky River Meats**
- 98 **Dagney's Homemade Ice Cream**
- 99 Cooling down at **La Nena Ice Cream Shop**
- 100 Indulging without the gluten at **CupKates Cupcakes**
- 101 Finding just the right amount of energy at **Evolve Nutrition**
- 102 Steak, salad and potatoes with a date at **Tucson's Steakhouse and Saloon**
- 103 Sweet treats at **Bibliophiles Bakery**
- 104 Authentic coastal-mexican cuisine at **805 Tacos**
- 105 Enjoying a casual night out with friends at **The Library** and bar chips
- 106 Late night Karaoke at **The Speakeasy**
- 107 Lunch and conversation at **Mokas**
- 108 Sunday Brunch and local craft beer at **BlueSkye Brewery**
- 109 **YaYa's Euro Bistro** dining on the patio and watching passers-by
- 110 Traditional Mexican food at **Taqueria Fresnillo, LaCurva** or **Los Potrillos**
- 111 Abundant favorite **food** chain options
- 112 *Unforgettable Experiences*
- 113 **Oldtime Gas Station Pump** photo opp - 300 Block of North 9th and Bishop Street
- 114 Taking a selfie at the **67401 Plaza** and **City Lights Stage**
- 115 **BEL Tree Farm** visits where families can make memories chopping their own Christmas tree
- 116 Driving under **arch lights** at night on Santa Fe Avenue
- 117 Prom **photos** in the parks each Spring

- 118 **Cruising Santa Fe** and stopping for treats on hot summer nights
- 119 Free **fishing** weekend traditions at Lakewood Lake
- 120 Watching kids run toward Easter joy at Bill Burke Park or Rolling Hills Zoo Eggstravaganza **Egg Hunts**
- 121 **Farm & Art Market Downtown** on Saturdays in May through October
- 122 Watching airplanes take off and land at **Fossett Plaza**
- 123 Viewing **beautiful sunrises and sunsets** over the Smoky Hills
- 124 Live entertainment and downtown events during “**First Friday**” of each month May through October
- 125 **Harvest Farmers Market** each Tuesday at 6:30 PM year around
- 126 **Downtown Christmas Lights** in the Winter
- 127 **Holiday Open Houses** at local attractions
- 128 **Free admission** at the Central KS Flywheels Museum and the Smoky Hill Museum
- 129 Hands on creativity and pottery classes at **On The Pot**
- 130 The ability to enjoy big-city experiences **without big-city traffic** and crowds
- 131 ***Unique History and Famous Legends***
- 132 A global pizza connection — home to **Tony’s Pizza** and one of the world’s largest frozen pizza manufacturing operations
- 133 **The Lee Jeans Company** started in Salina and this historical manufacturing building still stands
- 134 Location for the filming of the movie **Picnic**, and you can picnic in of our parks
- 135 Central High School Graduate and NFL star **Terrance Newman** grew up here
- 136 Birthplace of MLB Player, **Pat Meares** who also grew up here
- 137 Birthplace of Actor **Steve Murdock**
- 138 South High Soccer Player and World Cup Player **Adrianna Franch** grew up here
- 139 Celebrating the legacy of Salina native and former **Kansas Governor Bill Graves**
- 140 The people who show up when Salina needs them-dedicated Salina **Fire Fighters, emergency responders** and safety teams
- 141 The Salina **Police and K-9 Unit**
- 142 **Salina Pride** throughout the community
- 143 **Local artists** creating murals, sculptures in unexpected creative spaces throughout town
- 144 **Historic neighborhoods** with unique homes, **architecture** and stories
- 145 **Local businesses** that invest in Salina’s future
- 146 **Generations of families** who continue to call Salina home
- 147 **Safe, welcoming spaces** for kids to explore and play
- 148 **Civic engagement** opportunities including AMBUCS, Downtown Lyons, United Way and many more
- 149 Opportunities to learn about **agriculture and history** throughout the region
- 150 ***Nature, Outdoor Adventures and Sports***
- 151 More than 1,000 acres of **public parks** and open spaces to explore, play, relax, and reconnect
- 152 **Centennial Park** splash pad , playground and skate zone
- 153 Nature Programs at **Lakewood Discovery Center**
- 154 Exploring **Indian Rock Park**-nature trails, hiking, and amazing views overlooking Salina
- 155 **Kenwood Park** and **Steam Engine** Train Display
- 156 **Sunset Park** flower gardens, shelter, walking paths and more
- 157 Four-legged friends enjoying Salina’s **dog parks** including Barkley Park, The Barking Lot and Parker Park

158 **KANcycle bike sharing** at several convenient locations including Sunset Plaza, Bill Burke Park, and KWU

159 **Bill Burke Park** with ball fields, fishing areas, shelters and playground

160 **Lakewood Park** with playground, shelter, trails and disc golf course

161 **Olivia's Playground** an inclusive for all accessible park, walking path and play area

162 A strong sports and **sportsmanship culture**

163 **Hiking** to the top of Indian Rock to reach an amazing overlook of the city

164 **Oakdale Park** sunsets, walking paths and one of Salina's favorite gathering places

165 Hidden **nature trails** like Marty Bender, River Woods, Smoky Hill River, Steamboat Stabilization and Levee Trail System

166 **Disc Golf Courses** at Thomas Park, Lakewood Park and Berkley Family Recreation Area

167 **Pickleball** in Oakdale Park

168 Tennis at Salina **Tennis Center**

169 **Berkley Family Recreation Area** with baseball/softball fields and playground

170 **Jerry Ivy Park** with splash pad, playground, sand volleyball courts, tennis and shelter

171 **Youth Baseball and Softball Tournaments** bringing hundreds of teams and visitors each Spring and Summer

172 A lovely place to enjoy a walk-**WalkSalina** and **Mobility Management NCK**

173 Cheering on the **KWU Coyotes** during **Collegiate Competition**-Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Soccer

174 Youth, high school, collegiate and semi-professional **sports tournaments**

175 **Smoky Hill River** for kayaking, fishing, walking trails and enjoying nature

176 **Slow Roll Recreation Bike Ride** each Saturday morning April through October

177 **Hawthorne Park** splash pad and playground

178 Salina **Community Garden** spaces where neighbors grow, learn and connect

179 The **Salina Fieldhouse** offering indoor sports and recreation opportunities year-round

180 The **Salina Family YMCA** creating opportunities for fitness, youth programs and community connections

181 Friends of the River and the **River Project** under development

182 Concerts, conferences, trade shows and sporting events at **Tony's Pizza Events Center**

183 A space for your spirit at **Webster Conference Center**

184 ***Learning, Growing & Creating the Future***

185 **Kansas Wesleyan University** (KWU) creating opportunities for learning, career advancement and community

186 **Kansas State University Polytechnic** campus bringing aviation, technology, career advancement and innovation

187 **KU School of Medicine** expanding healthcare education and helping prepare the next generation of medical professionals

188 **Salina Technical College** preparing students with skilled trades, technology and centered education

189 **The Academy of Hair Design** with hands-on training, creativity and opportunities for future beauty professionals

190 **Sacred Heart High School** building character through faith and generating academic excellence in education

191 **Central High School** inspiring students through learning, competing and leading

192 **South High School** creating paths for learning, competing and opportunities

193 **Salina Adult Education** Center helping people learn and achieve their goals for lifelong career advancement

194 Little **Free Library Book Sharing Boxes** at over 25 locations throughout the community

195 Many options for the right **early education paths** with public USD#305, private, faith-based, and early learning schools for every age

196 Watching future Kansas Highway Patrol troopers train at the **Highway Patrol Training Center** as they prepare to serve Kansas communities

197 Opportunities to **build a career** and join the workforce in healthcare, manufacturing, education, aviation, agriculture, and more

198 *Memorable Moments & Discovery*
199 Hearing lions roar while walking through beautiful landscape paths at **Rolling Hills Zoo**
200 Winning at the Mario Kart virtual game at **The Garage Car Museum**
201 Imagining what it would be like as a settler to Kansas by walking into the sod house at the **Smoky Hill or Yesteryear Museums**
202 Seeing new sculptures each May during **SculptureTour Unwrap**
203 Reading, relaxing or finding the perfect gift at **Red Fern Booksellers**
204 Enjoying **live entertainment** and productions at **Theatre Salina, Stiefel Theatre**, event facilities, and outdoor parks and plazas
205 Thursday night **Cruisers** of Salina each April thru October
206 **Shopping** with friends for antiques, trendy finds or the latest retail discounts
207 **Georgetown Santas** Tradition popcorn, candy, elves and Santas
208 Gatherings, Galas and Parties at **The Temple**
209 Remember a time with records, cassettes and 8 tracks tapes at **Gryphon's Wing Records**
210 Grabbing a bite at **Cozy Inn** featuring the aroma of onion sliders and nostalgia of glass bottle soda
211 **Eating** the best corn dog ever at the Smoky Hill River Festival while sitting on a blanket listening to live music
212 *Aviation, Innovation & Reaching New Heights*
213 The **Salina Airport Industrial Area** has one of the longest runways in the world
214 **Salina's runway** is an alternate site to land the space shuttle
215 Home of Steve Fossett's take-off and landing **non-stop flight around** the world
216 **Convenient air service** connecting Salina to the world through direct flights to Denver, Chicago and Houston
217 Home to **1 Vision Aviation** a major regional employer
218 Home to the nation's largest enclosed **Unmanned Aerial (drone) testing facility** at K-State Salina
219 **Free parking** at the **Salina Regional Airport (SLN)** onnecting the community to the world
220 Birthplace of **Astronaut Steve Hawley**
221 The new site of **Pure Imagination**, an advanced spatial computing studio and learning center
222 *Salina's In the Middle of it All!*
223 Accessibility via the **crossroads of Interstate 70 and Interstate 135**
224 A welcoming place to stay with more than **2,200 diverse lodging rooms** ready for visitors, teams and gatherings
225 Population 49,000: A **community** big enough to offer opportunity, but small enough to feel connected
226 Right in the geographical **middle of the United States**
227 Front-line friendly **Mid-West hospitality** at its best
228 **Salina Regional Health Center** and **professional providers** yielding **advanced healthcare close to home**
229 **BIG skies** and **rolling hills**
230 **Family friendly affordable fun** and educational experiences for enthusiasts of sports, art, history, and food
231 **Fresh air and space to breathe**
232 **Support** for local businesses and a love for Salina
233 **Vibrant** with unavoidable art
234 Throughout Salina **historic buildings, local businesses and community events**
235 Thousands of **volunteers and organizations working together** to make Salina stronger
236 **Something of Interest for Everyone**
237 The feeling of finding something **unexpected** around every corner

- 238 Salina **memories** that stay with you long after you leave
- 239 **Quiet Moments**
- 240 Farmers, makers and growers sharing their **local products** at community markets
- 241 **Friendliness** of Salina residents
- 242 A central location that makes Salina a **convenient place** to meet and gather
- 243 A **fantastic destination** for the game, the day, a weekend or even a lifetime
- 244 Hundreds of local businesses creating the **places, services and experiences** that make Salina unique
- 245 A place where you can connect to start your Salina adventure at the **Salina Visitor Center**
- 246 **People** who take pride in making Salina a better place
- 247 A **community that celebrates** creativity, competition, history and connection
- 248 **All-American Play Day in the Park** every July 4th in Oakdale Park
- 249 **Skyfire** 4th of July fireworks at Berkley Family Recreation Area
- 250 **Discovering your next favorite Salina Experience**

[And More!!](#) We invite you to explore these reasons—and discover a few of your own at...

DiscoverSalina.org

About the 250 Reasons to Love Salina listing.

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, this collection of "250 Reasons to Love Salina" was created through local stories, shared experiences, and community pride. The ideas featured in this list were submitted by residents, visitors, community partners, stakeholders, volunteers, Chamber members, and Chamber staff.

This collection is designed to inspire exploration, celebrate what makes Salina special, and showcase the unique places, people, traditions, and experiences that make our area worth discovering. From local favorites to unforgettable moments, these reasons reflect the many ways people enjoy, connect with, and love Salina and the surrounding area.

This list is not intended to represent every attraction, business, organization, or experience in the area. Inclusion does not indicate an endorsement, ranking, or preference, but celebrates the many contributions and perspectives that help make Salina a community to love.

We are grateful to everyone who shared their favorite reasons to love Salina and helped celebrate our community during this special 250th anniversary milestone!

