

BCHA Kansas 2023 Report

Back Country Horsemen of Kansas celebrated several highlights in 2023:

- BCHKS kicked off 2023 by taking our show on the road:
 - Sunflower Trails Appreciation Day – In January, BCHKS had an informational booth at the State Capitol in Topeka along with a variety of other trails organizations from across the state. BCHKS representatives had the opportunity to visit with legislators and share the mission and accomplishments of the organization.
 - BCHKS National Director Diana Skinner participated on a panel at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Missouri discussing the challenges of shared use trails.
 - Equifest of Kansas – BCHKS had an informational booth at this annual 4-day equine expo in March and shared information with almost 20,000 horse lovers.
 - Three BCHKS delegates attended the BCHA National Meeting in Kalispell, Montana.
- Fill-the-Campground Campaign – The new BCHKS Chisholm Trail Chapter sponsored Fill-the-Campground events at six different campgrounds across the state to encourage riding and camping at some less popular and less well-known locations. Participants were given a BCHA flashlight/keychain and a charm for each of the events attended. BCHKS donated a manure cart to each of the participating campgrounds.
- The newly formed Chisholm Trail Chapter was the recipient of a BCHA Chapter Support Grant.
- The Tuttle Creek Chapter was the recipient of a BHCKS State Chapter Grant.
- Trail maintenance continued to be the primary focus of BCHKS with 3,214 hours reported for 2023 valued at \$195,655. Since BCHKS was formed in 2014, volunteers have donated 29,538 hours with a value of \$1,902,543.
- BCHKS supported RFD-TV *Best of America by Horseback* weekends at two Kansas State Parks, receiving recognition on the nationally televised program for the work being done by equestrian volunteers.
- Membership continued to grow as a result of the Trails Advocate membership level created in 2022, which combines membership in both BCHKS and the Kansas Horse Council.
- Committee was formed to begin planning the BCHKS 10-Year Anniversary Celebration in 2024.