

Council Grove Wagon Show

~ Council Grove, Kansas • September 19-20, 2025

Marking A Road to the Santa Fe Wagon Show



On September 19 & 20, 2025, the National Freight Wagon and Stagecoach Association participated in the 2025 Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium, *“Marking a Road To Santa Fe: Set Your Sights on Sibley.”* The event was held September 19-27, 2025, and the weather was beautiful.

Part of the event was a wagon show held in Council Oak Park right on the Santa Fe Trail in historic Council Grove, Kansas. The two-day event had seventeen wagons and carriages registered. An estimated 400 adults and local school children, totaling 100 students, attended the two-day event.

During the day, presentations were held by National Freight Wagon and Stagecoach Association President Jeff McManus, who demonstrated blacksmithing as a traveling blacksmith on a Santa Fe Trail-bound wagon train. Jeff McManus captivated the audience as he created wagon parts and tools in his traveling forge. Nationally renowned wagon expert David Sneed presented on the parts of a wagon and what to look for when researching or buying one. Sneed’s knowledge of wagons always amazes and delights those who gather to hear him talk. Wagon maker and Wheelwright Don Werner shrank tires on wooden wheels during the two-day event. Don is renowned for creating and building wagons that have been shipped all over the country and overseas. Historian and NFWSA member Mark Brooks presented on the Santa Fe Trail.

Surveyor and Historian Steve Broesmer presented on the Sibley Survey of the Santa Fe Trail, which marked the 200th anniversary of that event. Trophies were awarded to the top winners in two categories, Wagon and Carriage. Another trophy was awarded to the People’s Choice Award. Prize money was awarded in each division.

In the wagon division, Frank and Peg Burkdoll won first place with their Peter Schuttler; Patrick Goodknight and Greg VanCoevern also won. In the Carriage division, Connie and Don Werner won first with a dairy buggy, Greg and Joanne VanCoevern won second with a child buggy, and Marci Gesewein won third with a doctor’s buggy. A total of \$1,000 in prize money was distributed to the winners. Frank and Peg Burkdoll won the “People’s Choice” Trophy with their stagecoach.





Two Seat Sleigh, Photos courtesy of hansenwheel.com



Two-Seat Albany Sleigh, Photos courtesy of hansenwheel.com