

# WILL JAMES SOCIETY ANNUAL GATHER

## SEPT. 19 - 22, 2024 • DODGE CITY, KANSAS



### Schedule

*Hosted by Scott and Cynthia Roper*

Dodge City, Kansas is the proposed site for the 2024 Will James Society Annual Gather. Located in southwestern Kansas, Dodge City is an historic cowtown made famous in the television show "Gunsmoke." Dodge City became a "boom town" following an offshoot of the Chisholm Trail to keep cattle drives west of farmland. Famous residents include Earp brothers Wyatt, Virgil and James, "Big Nose" Kate (companion to "Doc" Holliday), Bat, Ed and James Masterson, and actor Dennis Hopper. Dodge City was also the fictional home for Marshall Matt Dillon and Miss Kitty.

**Travel:** Dodge City is served by a regional airport with flights from Denver on United Airlines. Currently, there are two flights per day. The nearest major airport is in Wichita, KS, and is a 2.5-hour drive to Dodge City.

**Lodging:** Holiday Inn Express  
201 4th Avenue  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
Ph: 620-225-1000

Holiday Inn Express is pleased to offer the Will James Society a preferred rate. Please call the hotel directly or go online when making a reservation before cut off date of 8-19-2024.

Special Rates: King \$130 - 2 queen beds \$139

**Gather Registration: \$50 pp.** Mail payment to:  
John Washington, 1180 Sage Ocean Court, Gardnerville, NV 89460

**Banquet:** The Dodge City Convention and Visitors' Bureau recommended using the banquet space inside the Boot Hill Casino and Resort. The food is recommended, and ranges from \$16.00 to \$30.00 per person. The casino also offers meeting space if the Hampton Inn is too small. No hotel in town will be able to hold our banquet. The Hampton Inn is a short walk from the casino.

The number of attendees will determine if an auction can be held.

**Activities:** Dodge City offers numerous activities, such as:

- **Boot Hill Museum**
  - With a group of 30 or more, the museum may be able to put on the Miss Kitty and Can Can Dancers show (this show is typically during the summer)
- Gunfight reenactments
- Can Can lessons
- Downtown Self-Guided Walking Tour/Walk of Fame
- Statues of Famous Dodge City Residents

- Trolley Tours For Up To 26 People
- Fort Dodge - As this location is an active veterans' home, no tours of the location may be available. The Visitors' Bureau says that it is best seen from trolley tour.

- **Santa Fe Depot** (Harvey House Hotel)
- Art Galleries • Dodge City Brewing
- Boot Hill Distillery • Gunfighters Wax Museum

Additionally, in October, there is trick-or-treating, cemetery tours and the Young Guns Youth Rodeo Season (typically at the end of October).

#### Proposed Itinerary:

##### Thursday

- Registration at the host hotel
- Dinner on your own or in groups

##### Friday

- Board and members meeting will be held Friday in meeting room of the host hotel, Holiday Inn Express, 8am thru 12noon.  
Breakfast at the hotel  
Beverage service will need to be set up for the meeting, if desired  
A/V Equipment to be requested, as needed
- Independent/Organized Activities  
Museums • Special events • Shopping
- Dinner  
Local restaurants • On your own

##### Saturday

- Independent/Organized Activities  
Museums • Special events • Shopping
- Dinner  
Casino • Cocktail hour • Banquet • Auction?  
A/V equipment on site, as needed

##### Sunday

- Cowboy church  
Hotel meeting room • A/V equipment on site, as needed
- Departure

#### Point of Contact:

Robin Bailey, Tourism Coordinator  
robinb@dodgecity.org  
Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau  
400 W. Wyatt Earp Blvd. • Dodge City, Kansas 67801  
620.225.8194